

Victory Sports Wrestling

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READER

Response



Col. DeBeers stumbles as Scott Hall chases him outside the ring. Nicky Risling believes Hall should have concentrated on winning the AWA World title rather than engaging in a personal feud with DeBeers. But it's all academic now; Hall has left the AWA.

HALL'S BIG MISTAKE

Although I am a big fan of Scott Hall's, I can see why he never did succeed in ridding the AWA of Col. DeBeers. After reading "Scott Hall Takes Aim At Col. DeBeers: The Big Man's Biggest Test Yet" (Winter 1986), it's obvious that Hall didn't have his priorities in order.

Feuds are always a factor in professional wrestling, but it's always important not to let your heart overcome your mind once you step into the ring. When Hall admits that he's after DeBeers for personal, not professional, reasons, he's exposing one of his fatal flaws.

No wonder Hall's career is now

in limbo, although he is one of the finest and most promising wrestlers in the sport. If and when Hall returns to the AWA, I hope that his goal is winning the AWA World title belt from Nick Bockwinkel, not trying to solve all of the world's problems. It just can't be done.

NICKY RISLING
St. Paul, MN

WHO'S THE FOOL?

The WWF has had a history of trying to make fools of the fans, but this time it's only made itself look bad. I'm talking about your story in the Winter 1986 issue of *Victory Sports Wrestling* that talked about Andre's masquerade as The Giant Machine ("You Can't Fool The Fans: There Goes Andre The Giant Machine").

WWF President Jack Tunney said on national television that if it was proven that The Giant Machine is Andre, he would suspend Andre for life. Well, in my mind, that was proven many times but nothing happened. Then we find out that Andre has been reinstated by the WWF.

For what? Why? According to Tunney himself, Andre didn't even show up for the reinstatement hearing while Bobby Heenan did. The WWF just allowed Andre to make it look stupid. This is ridiculous and an obvious ploy by the WWF to get one of its biggest moneymakers back in action while ignoring the rules of the game.

To Vince McMahon, I have this to say: This time, you didn't fool us. You just made yourselves look foolish.

JOE COLLINS
New York

A PUZZLE RECORD?

The "Masked Wrestlers" puzzle in your last issue (Winter 1986, *Victory Sports Wrestling*) provided much entertainment for my family.

(Continued on page 44)

Randy Savage vs. Rick Steamboat: HAS THE MACHO MAN SLAIN THE DRAGON?



Randy "Macho Man" Savage throws Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat into the railing (left) and grabs him in a facelock (right). The Dragon is back after Savage almost ended his career.

Since Randy Savage put Rick Steamboat out of action, he has done nothing but boast of his "accomplishment." Steamboat has remained silent about the affair while working hard to get back in condition to wrestle. The wrestling world now anticipates one of the great rivalries in WWF history



The Macho Man pulls Steamboat off the mat (left), only to get locked up in a test of strength (right). Their feud is one of the most intense ever.

IT IS NO coincidence that when Randy Savage brutally injured Rick Steamboat, he did so on television. What better way to show the world that he was indeed the "Macho Man," the man who isn't afraid to silence his opponents by any means possible?

Savage dropped Steamboat neck-first on the steel divider out-

side the ring, then, with Steamboat's neck still draped on the railing, the "Macho Man" came down off the top rope with a flying axehandle. Savage then pulled Steamboat into the ring by his hair, grabbed the timekeeper's bell, and leaped off the top rope, driving the bell into his foe's throat. Steamboat had to be carried off on a stretcher. He is expected to be out for a few months.



Bruno Sammartino is not stingy with his praise for wrestlers whose approach to the sport falls within the framework of the rulebook. Perhaps he is too generous on the air. But talk to him privately and he will tell you that there is one wrestler in the WWF for whom he has the utmost respect both as an ath-

(Continued on page 46)

LADY MAXINE: SHE CAN MAKE IT BIG IN WOMEN'S WRESTLING

If Lady Maxine is Mad these days, it's only because she feels women's wrestling belongs on a par with men's wrestling. This 6'4", 180-pounder is fighting for a lot more than personal glory



IN THE EARLY-1980s, women's wrestling was suffering. Rejuvenated by social revolution in the early-'70s, it had seemingly returned to the doldrums. There was less action in the female mat wars than at any time since B.M. (Before Moolah). In a supposed liberated culture, there were shockingly few job opportunities for female wrestlers, and shockingly few qualified grapplers to ably fill the demands of the ring to begin with.

Then came Wendi Richter. And now, there is Lady Maxine.

"I'm out to change some things in women's wrestling," she says.

"I think women have to be stronger than ever before. That's the only way that we, as a group, can gain respect—and the only way I can respect myself."

Lady Maxine's burgeoning popularity has come to rival any of her male counterparts. She could turn out to be a true phenomenon, to rival Wendi Richter.

"Who cares about Richter," Maxine offers, rhetorically. "Anybody can strap on a bikini and beat up on a grandmother to win a title. I doubt whether she can breathe inside those scanty little tights she always wears. I'm a professional wrestler."

Fans may remember that Lady Maxine challenged Richter for the World Women's title on several occasions in 1985, when she was known as "Mad Maxine." She maintains that she was never really a rulebreaker: "I was misinterpreted because of my wild make-up, and because I was wrestling a sex symbol."

Small-craft warnings should have been issued when Maxine hit Florida last year. She precipitated a hurricane. Maxine was an immediate sensation as a Lady, blitzing through her opposition with scientific grace and skill. She

(Continued on page 12)

LADY MAXINE

(Continued from page 10)



Lady Maxine slams Peggy Lee Pringle, who was managed by her brother Percy. The two had a bitter feud in Florida in 1985. Maxine is not only fighting her opponents, she's fighting for respect in a male-dominated sport.

has also championed the cause of women's wrestling, actively as well as in spirit and principle.

"I've applied to the NWA to enter a battle royal in Jacksonville," said the 6'4", 180-pounder. "'You can't do that,' people screamed, 'they're all men!' So what. I've wrestled men before. I'll take the consequences, even it means a joyride in an ambulance. But I can handle myself, and I encourage other women to enter. It's the only way to make a decent buck at these battle royals, after all. Ask Joyce Grable."

In 1983, Grable boycotted a women's battle royal at The Omni in Atlanta. She refused to participate because the prize money was \$10,000. A men's battle royal scheduled later in the evening offered its victor \$25,000.

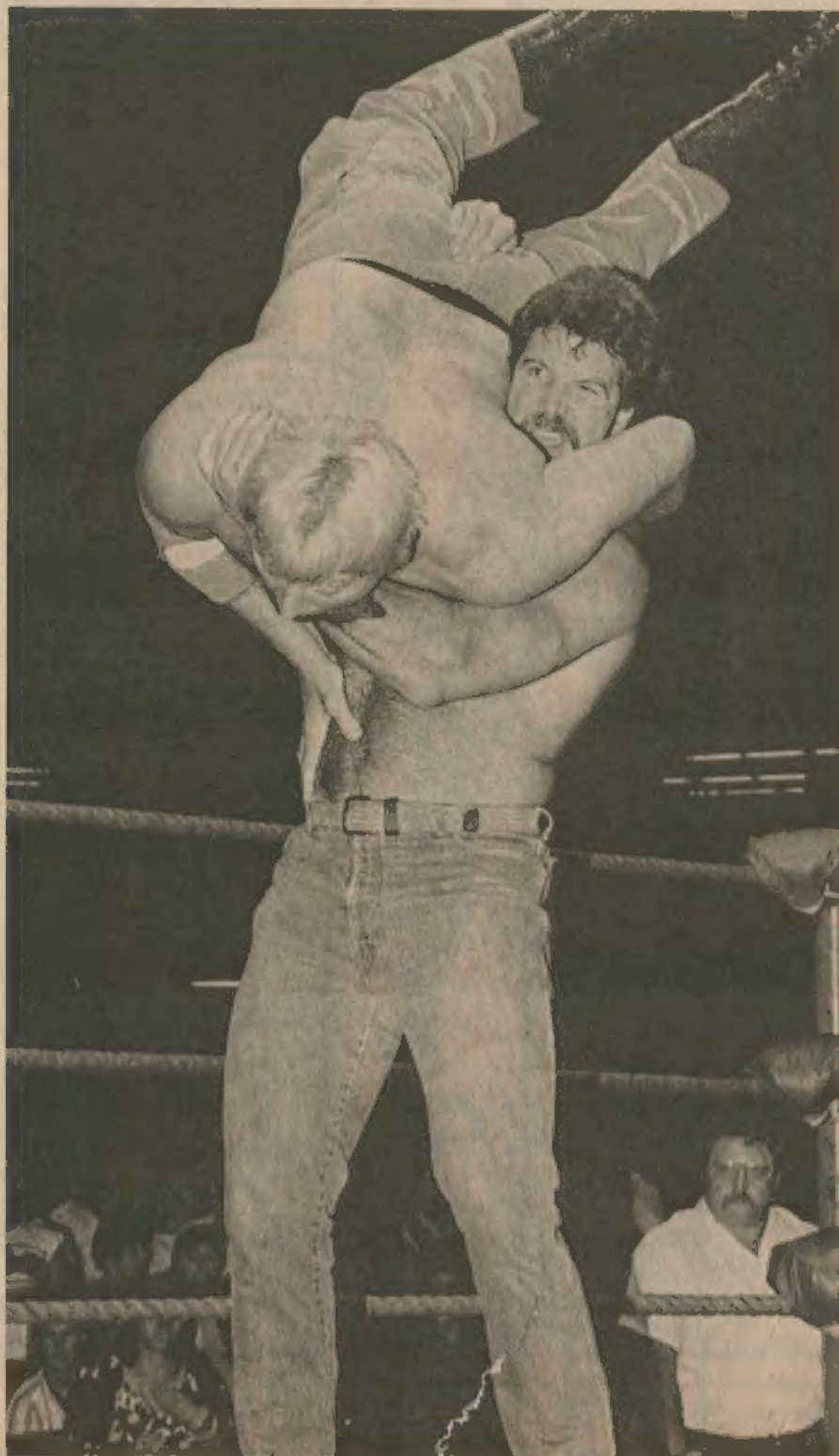
Maxine's social conscience exists in a curious vacuum in the NWA. Unlike wrestling's other two major federations, the oldest one does not have an officially sanctioned women's world championship.

If the NWA ever decides to hold a tournament to designate a women's champ, Lady Maxine would most likely be the favorite. Maxine towers over Ric Flair by 2½ inches. None of her female opponents in Florida reach past neck-level. But she doesn't rely on brute force in the ring. "Most women my size don't have the coordination that wrestling requires," she said. "The action is very precise—the right amount of pressure and leverage in the right place at the right time." Maxine's years on the University of Kentucky basketball team helped her attain effortless balance and coordination.

Maxine's top moment in the sport came when she engaged in a Florida feud with the veteran brawler Peggy Lee Pringle. Before Percy Pringle accompanied his prize charge Rick Rude to the World Class region, the contro-

(Continued on page 50)

Ready For The Hall Of Fame: THE AWA'S FUTURE IS IN SCOTT HALL'S HANDS!



Hall had many enemies in the AWA, most notably the South African Col. DeBeers (left) and Larry Zbyszko (above).

[Editor's Note: As we were going to press, we learned that Scott Hall had decided to wrestle in Florida for a while. But many experts still predict that Hall's destiny awaits him in the AWA, and he is expected to return there before the end of 1987.]

EARLY IN 1973, a man by the name of Ric Flair made his unheralded debut in the squared circle. To be precise, it was February 1973, and for the record the opponent was George "Scrap Iron" Gadatski. Flair won the match, but few fans cheered or booed. They were waiting for the card's main event that was still many matches away.

Little more than a decade later, Flair established himself as *the* premier force in the NWA, professional wrestling's oldest and largest sanctioning body. Currently enjoying his third NWA World title

Seldom in the course of athletic history are fans privileged to witness the coming of an individual who has the potential to change the very face of his chosen sport. In the world of professional wrestling, Scott Hall is just such a man



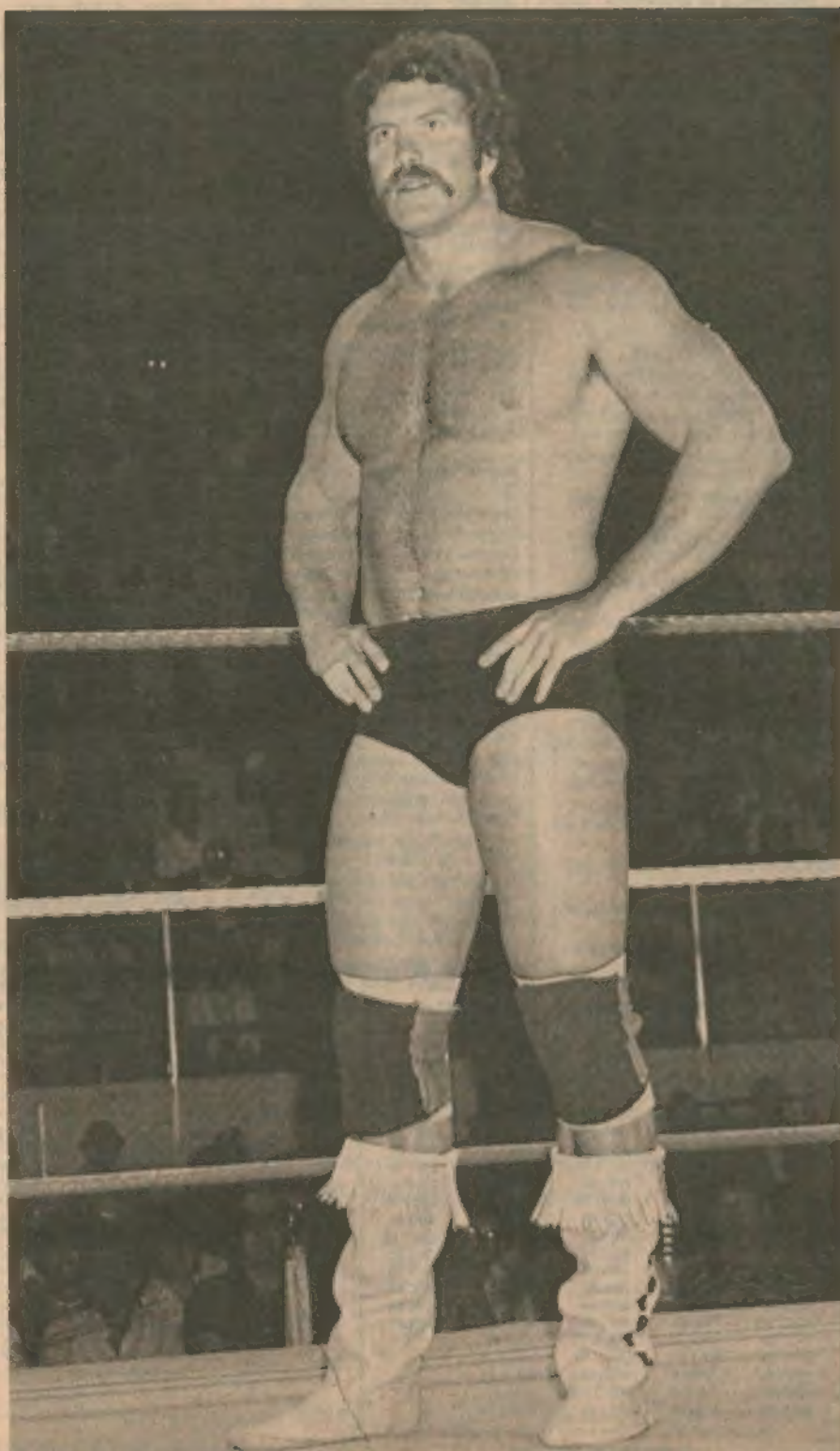
Hall, one of the most physically awesome men in the sport (right), uses his strength to easily flip Buddy Rose (above).

reign, Flair amassed a lengthy series of championship achievements between that chilly February 1973 debut and the glory days of the 1980s. Today, the fans cheer and boo—but they all recognize that Flair is the quintessential professional wrestler.

About two years ago, Scott Hall made his professional debut in Kansas City, wrestling in a tag team match with Dan Spivey. Together, they defeated Bulldog Bob Brown and Marty Jannetty. Few fans cheered or booed. Like Flair in 1973, it was an unheralded debut.

And as Flair did over the decade that followed his debut, Scott Hall has the potential to galvanize the sport of professional wrestling through his formidable size (6'8" and 290 pounds) and his ever-developing skills (learned at the hands of such ringmasters

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SCOTT HALL

(Continued from page 15)



At his best, Hall can take a man like Doug Somers and toss him across the ring with one arm. But during his tenure in the AWA, Hall got too involved in a useless feud with Col. DeBeers, which cost him shots at the World championship and a chance to regain the tag team title he held with Curt Hennig.

as Flair, Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Terry Taylor, Harley Race, Pat O'Connor, Curt Hennig, and Rick Martel).

Indeed, Scott Hall could do for a suffering AWA what Flair did for the NWA, or what Hulk Hogan has done for the WWF over the past two years.

Few people who we spoke with would go on the record with their comments about the state of affairs in the AWA today. Most agreed that wrestling in the AWA, while maintaining high scientific standards, and boasting some top stars, is nevertheless suffering from an overall lethargy.

But young Scott Hall, barely out of his rookie year, has already injected a new sense of excitement and drama into the AWA. He is being touted as one of the very best of a bumper crop of rookie stars from last year, and his admirers are hardly overstating his case.

Granted, Hall has a long way to go. Of course Hall's natural size and strength are his primary assets, but he has yet to learn how to capitalize on those natural physical gifts. He's limber enough to maneuver his 6'8" frame around the ring fairly well, but he's got to work on developing his speed. And, of course, he's got to develop an extensive repertoire of scientific maneuvers.

"Scott is still in the learning stages of his career, but he's coming along very, very well," said nine-time AWA World champion Verne Gagne, who has spent many hours in the gym training Hall. "The first step, of course, is to learn the sweet science of wrestling. He's got to emphasize the basics of the sport and build his knowledge of what kinds of maneuvers are available to him to use in the ring. And that's something that takes time.

"Hall is a young man whose size limits his use of certain kinds of maneuvers, but helps him in the use of others," Gagne continued. "For example, a high vertical suplex by Scott would be devastating if properly applied, but a flying vault pin attempt, such as Rick Martel often uses, would may be very difficult for him to execute.

"Once Hall develops his scientific knowledge," Gagne continued, "he'll have to work on developing his instinctual reactions, and that's something that really comes only with experience

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SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN ADIAS

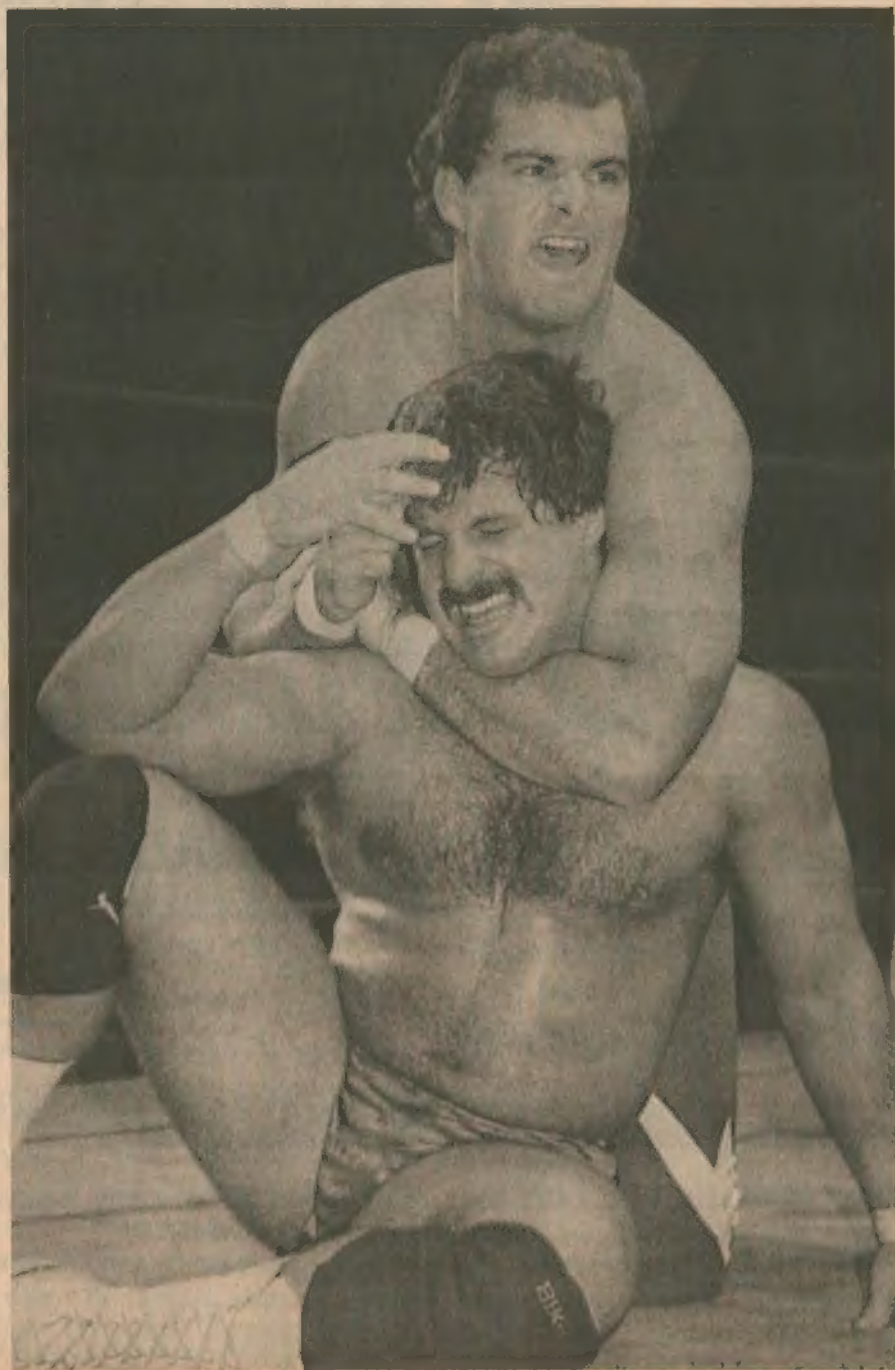
BORN IN DENTON, Texas, lifelong friend of the neighboring Von Erich family, scientific wrestler par excellence, fan favorite. All of that means nothing to Brian Adias anymore. All of the cheers of the crowd, the friendship, the encouragement, led to just one thing for Adias. Stagnation. So he took matters into his own hands.

Just as a treat for the fans, and for the opportunity to display two of its finest scientific wrestlers, World Class Championship Wrestling decided to pit Mike Von Erich against Brian Adias, almost like two friends in a backyard game of stickball. It just didn't turn out that way.

Somewhere along the way—it might have been weeks, months, or days before the match, or even while the match was taking place—Adias had a change of heart. The frustration of stagnation hit home and Adias decided that he had had enough. So he turned on his good friend, attacking him in an almost unconscious rage.

Then, after the damage was done and Mike was laid out in the center of the ring, Adias went in for the pin and declared his independence. The direct message: "I am Brian Adias, and I'm ready to stand on my own." The real message: "Friendship has its price and I'm sick of paying."

The entire Von Erich family was shocked. Kerry, longtime friend of



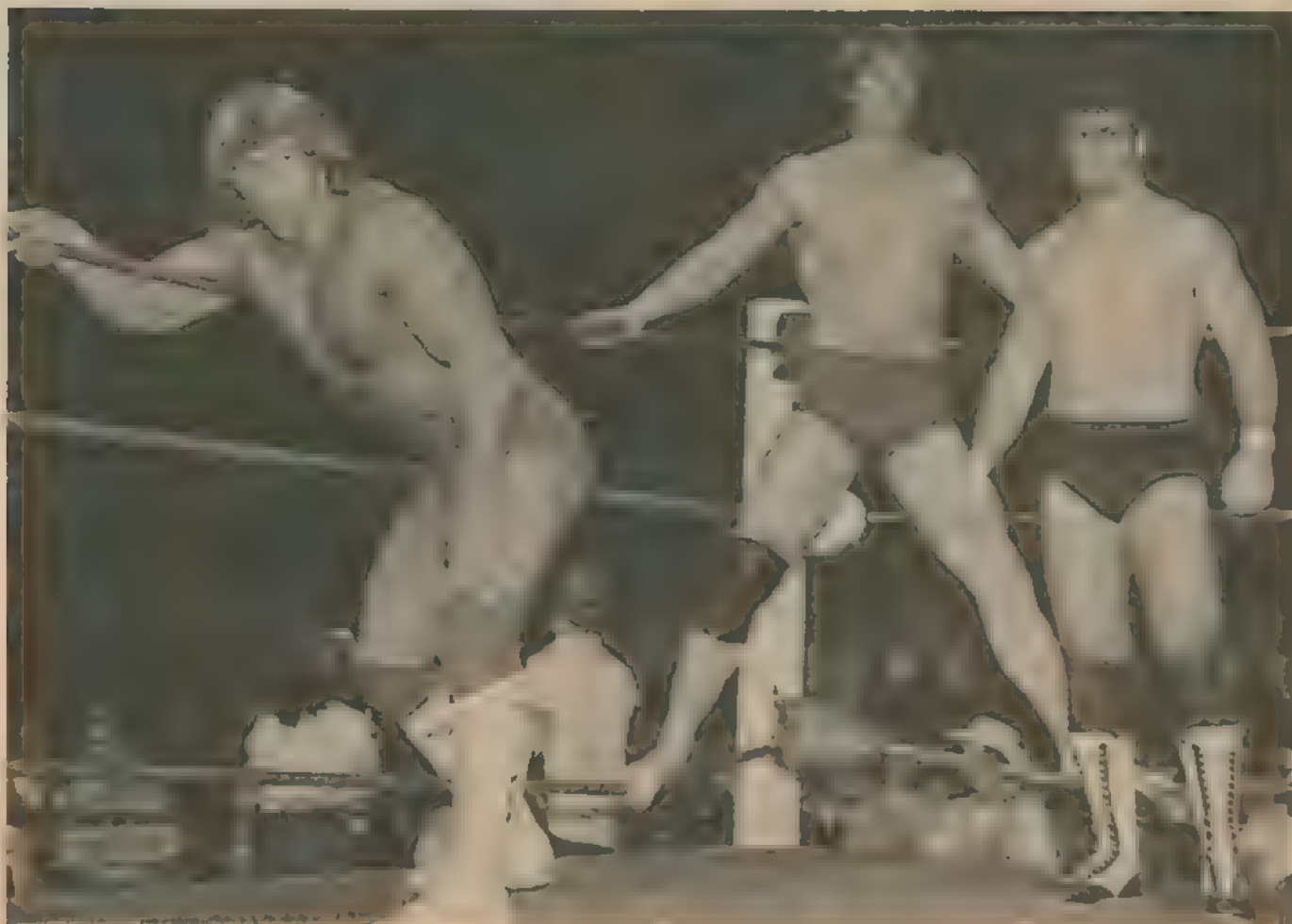
A hungry Adias secures a headlock on Brad Batten (opposite page). Adias seems to be full of himself now (right), but in friendlier times he and the Von Erchs shared the same corner of the ring (below).

Adias and a man who has had a very difficult year, declined to comment directly after the incident. Mike was less upset about the pin than he was about Adias' sudden change. Or was it sudden? Adias admitted afterward that this had been brewing for a long time and he finally decided to do something about it.

Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum traveled to Denton to find out just what is going on in Von Erichland. In this interview, Adias speaks out on the Von Erchs, World Class wrestling, and his revised goals for the future.

Q: Just to get things started, Brian, when...

A: Now hold it right there, Rosenbaum! If anybody is starting things, it's me. I'm not a follower anymore, I'm a leader, and don't
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Behind
the scenes
Special Feature:

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE WIFE OF A WRESTLER



As the referee checks a cut on Wahoo McDaniel's head (left), Karen McDaniel looks on emotionlessly (right). She has reluctantly accepted the nightly punishment her husband takes.

By Stu Saks

HER FACE NEVER betrays the emotions that are ripping at her insides. She won't let it.

Karen McDaniel sits front row ringside as Bruiser Brody slams his fists into the face she will be kissing hours later. Her expres-

sion—or lack of expression—never changes. She is careful not to let Wahoo McDaniel know that she is dying inside.

"I can only think of one thing in the world that could be worse than watching Wahoo wrestle,"

said Wahoo's wife of four years, "and that's staying at home imagining what is happening to him. I don't dare let him see me worry; he'll never let me go again."

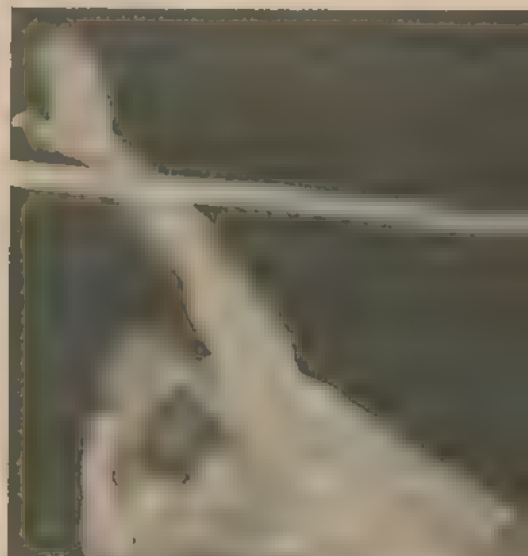
It's hard to conceive of Karen McDaniel conjuring images that



Blood gushes from Wahoo's eye (above). That's a common occurrence when the Indian wrestles. Wahoo ignores the referee's warning and makes a wish on Crusher Blackwell (below). Despite the brutality in Wahoo's matches, his wife insists on being in attendance so she knows exactly what's going on.



Wahoo catches NWA World champion Ric Flair in a sleeperhold (below). They have wrestled for the title many times in the past five years. Flair once put a bounty on Wahoo's head.



are much worse than what actually occurs. Her husband is the type of wrestler who will take five shots to get off one good one. He spills blood in more than half his matches. He wins, but he pays a heavy price. He has been that type of wrestler for about 20 years. Before that, he was that type of football player for the Houston Oilers and the New York Jets.

"Sometimes I wish Wahoo were a tennis player," Karen McDaniel says. "But then I remind myself that he wouldn't be Wahoo if he wasn't a wrestler. The sport is part of him. He just wouldn't be the man I fell in love with without it."

If Karen had been married to Wahoo throughout his career, she would either be numb to the bru-

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WHY HILLBILLY JIM'S RETURN IS GETTING IN JOHN STUDD'S HAIR

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth . . . and Hillbilly Jim's recent success in tag team matches with Andre the Giant has added a third element to that adage: a lock of hair for a lock of hair



WHEN A TAG team of the physical magnitude of King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd step into the ring together, it's an open invitation for announcers to begin speculating about how much reinforcement would be needed to support the ring. Small

wonder—the team of Bundy and Studd scales in at 810 pounds.

But consider their opponents in this particular instance: 270 pounds of Hillbilly Jim joined with 505 pounds of Andre the Giant. All four men in the ring total 1,585 pounds—more than three-quarters

of a ton! This is the kind of match for which the words "superheavyweight contest" seem to have been coined.

And this is the match that the Madison Square Garden fans came to see. Forget about Pedro

(Continued on page 57)



With Big John Studd draped over the ropes, Hillbilly Jim stalks his prey (above). But Hillbilly Jim doesn't always have the advantage (top right) as Studd plants a shoe in his rival's gut. Studd again has the advantage (below) as he pounds on the Hillbilly's chest, but Uncle Elmer interferes to save his friend. These matches have turned into vicious confrontations.



WHAT GOES AROUND,

For such a young man, Barry Windham has traveled a lot of miles. But now that he's back in the NWA's World Championship area, the Sweetwater, Texas, native may finally be able to see what is at the end of his long and winding road: the NWA World championship

By Peter King

THE ROAD TRAVELED by Barry Windham has not been a straight one. In fact, it has had more loops than a rollercoaster.

Windham began his career in Salt Lake City, but reached national prominence in Florida. He then moved on to the Mid-Atlantic area. After that, it was back to Florida. After another successful tour of the Sunshine State, it was back to the Mid-Atlantic area. From there, he journeyed to the WWF. After that, it was back to Florida. Recently, he has returned to the Mid-Atlantic area, which, since Windham's last tour there, has expanded and is now known as the World Championship area.

Despite his travels, there is one constant that follows the 6'5" 236-pound Windham wherever he goes—success. Although he is still quite young, Windham has already amassed a catalogue of titles that most 20-year veterans



Barry Windham draws blood from Ron Bass, one of his deadly opponents when he was wrestling in Florida. When he moved to the World Championship area, Windham teamed up with Ron Garvin and won the U.S. tag team title. The popular Texan hopes to stay in that region longer than he's stayed in other areas, including the WWF where he was a two-time World tag team champion with Mike Rotundo.

would covet: Florida champion. Southern champion. U.S. tag team champion. WWF World tag team champion. These are only some of the major titles that this talented young man has earned in less than eight years.

Windham's return to the World Championship area marks a turning point in his career. "I am now going to put every working hour toward my goal," the soft-spoken Texan said. "I want the NWA championship. Regional titles and tag team titles are great. But now it's time I won the big one. I'm ready."

During his various stays in Florida, Windham engaged in some titanic struggles with Flair. In a recent interview, Flair named Windham as one of the five toughest opponents he has ever faced. Windham snickered when he was shown a copy of Flair's interview.

"This is something I have to be careful of," Windham said. "Flair is the finest wrestler in the world—I give him that. But he's much more. He's intelligent and he's a master at psyching out his opponents. It's flattering that Flair would say that about me, but I've gotta put it out of my mind. When

WINDHAM:

COMES AROUND



Ric Flair says something nice about a prospective opponent, you gotta be careful. He's got something planned. It's kinda like a coyote complimenting a sheep on how meaty and tender he looks."

To newer fans of wrestling, Windham's statement might sound like paranoia. But longtime Flair observers know he is right. Perhaps the only subject Ric Flair knows better than wrestling is psychology.



Windham pulls Shepherder Butch Miller off the ropes (left) and smashes Brutus Beefcake with a forearm (above). Windham says he's ready to win the NWA World title.

There was a time when wrestling experts thought Barry Windham was being pushed too fast. Many people predicted that his career would be spectacular but brief. But Windham, who recently turned 26, has proved them wrong. He has become better each year. One reason for this is that he has continually made the right choices both inside and outside the ring. For instance, his coming to and leaving the WWF were excellent in their timing.

"I came to the WWF at the right time," Windham said. "They

were at the beginning of their expansion movement, and it gave me a chance to wrestle the best wrestlers in the world. But it wasn't long before I realized I was burning out. The travel was in-

credible, and the demands on my body were great. And the matches themselves were becoming brawls, not wrestling encounters. I could've stayed there and made more money quickly, but I felt it would hinder me for the rest of my life. I feel I made the right decision to leave when I did."

History bears Windham out on that. A quick look at some of the wrestlers who have stayed in the WWF proves just how smart Windham was. When Windham was in the WWF, Nikolai Volkoff and The Iron Sheik were excellent main-event wrestlers. Today, they have become no more than journeymen. Volkoff, for instance, is being pinned by men like Koko B. Ware, who Volkoff would have destroyed only a few years ago. Iron Sheik has also suffered some humiliating defeats recently. Both wrestlers are clear cases of WWF burnout.

Even Windham's WWF champion tag team partner, Mike Rotundo, is languishing in his current tour of the WWF. Rotundo teamed with Danny Spivey in an obvious attempt to recapture his past glory, but that tag team will never attain the heights that Windham and Rotundo reached.

"I feel great," Windham said, "better than ever. I'm at the height of my career now. I learned a lot from my WWF days, and I got out before I had to pay too high a cost. My return to Florida cleared my head and made me a better wrestler. Now I'm ready for Flair and the NWA title. It's all working out so well for me. I couldn't have planned it any better if I tried. From the first day I turned pro, my goal was to win the NWA World title. Now, I'm nearer to my goal than ever."

In algebra, we learned that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Barry Windham proves that in wrestling, sometimes the shortest distance between two points is a circle. □



NWA World champion Ric Flair braces himself for Windham's high-flying dropkick (above). They've wrestled many times in the past, and title matches are on the horizon. Windham clotheslines Bob Roop (below), the man who once guided Lex Luger's career. Luger and Windham have been good friends, but their respective plans for the future may be different.



THE BEST OF '86

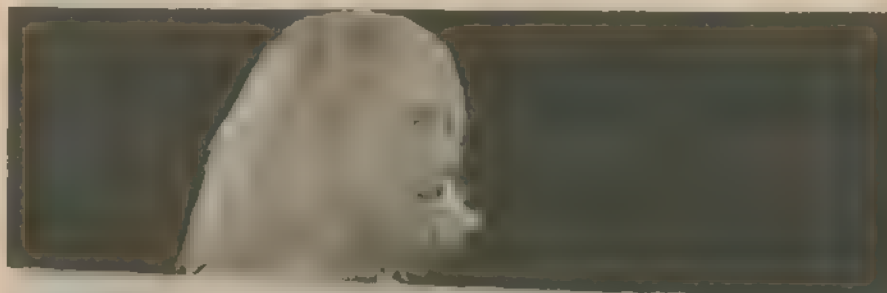
The 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Year-End Awards are history. But *PWI* managing editor and columnist Stu Saks feels that the 10 categories that comprise the awards don't go far enough. Here are his additional award winners for

1986

By Stu Saks

MOST OF YOU have probably already read the big March 1987 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* containing your selections for the year-end awards in 10 different categories. To expand on those selections, I am making my personal selections—not for wrestling as a whole, but rather in each major wrestling area across the nation.

Dan Spivey, who has Barry O in an armbar, was chosen the WWF's Most Improved Wrestler of 1986 by Managing Editor Stu Saks. Despite suffering a knee injury, Spivey showed great promise for a successful career. He has spent most of his time in tag team action with Mike Rotundo.



WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Wrestler of the Year—Hulk Hogan; Tag Team of the Year—The British Bulldogs; Manager of the Year—Capt. Lou Albano; Rookie of the Year—Tom Magee; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Dan Spivey; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—Roddy Piper; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Paul Omdorff; Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—Bruno Sammartino; Match of the Year—Rick Steamboat vs. Randy Savage (October 28, Binghamton, New York); Feud of the Year—Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Omdorff.



Picking Up Where The PWI Awards Left Off

AWA Women's World champion Sherri Martel is not only a great wrestler; she's a great manager, the Manager of the Year in the AWA according to Saks. In 1986, she led Playboy Buddy Rose and Doug Somers to the AWA World tag team title.

AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Wrestler of the Year—Stan Hansen; Tag Team of the Year—Scott Hall & Curt Hennig; Manager of the Year—Sherri Martel; Rookie of the Year—Earthquake Ferris; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Col. DeBeers; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—Jimmy Snuka; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Col. DeBeers; Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—Jimmy Snuka; Match of the Year—The Midnight Rockers vs. Doug Somers & Buddy Rose (August 7, Las Vegas); Feud of the Year—Scott Hall vs. Col. DeBeers.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Wrestler of the Year—Ric Flair; Tag Team of the Year—The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Manager of the Year—Jim Cornette; Rookie of the Year—Todd Champion; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Sam Houston; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—Magnum T.A.; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Nikita Koloff; Inspirational Wrestler of the

(Continued on page 60)

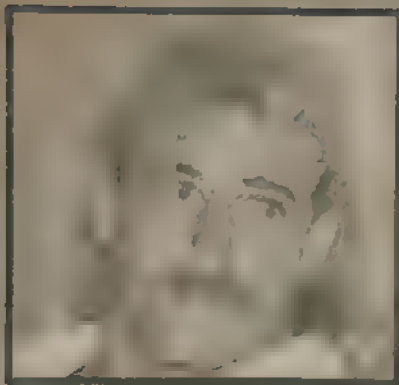


MAGNUM T.A.'s TRAGIC INJURY:



Although Magnum T.A. has had an excellent recovery from the injuries he sustained in an auto accident, it is not known whether he will wrestle again. Magnum locks up with Nikita Koloff (above left and below), the former rival who turned fan favorite in his honor. Magnum's parents congratulate him after a victory last year (above right).





WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR WRESTLING?



Magnum's Porsche was absolutely totaled in the crash, though it's not quite as bad as it looks: The top had to be torn off to free him. As of press time, doctors report that Magnum should be walking by the end of January.

THE ONLY REAL concern at this point is for the health of Magnum T.A., a great wrestler, a former champion shot down in his prime, seriously injured in a senseless automobile accident that came unbearably close to claiming his life and has certainly put his career in vital danger.

Doctors still have not risked a prognosis on whether he will ever wrestle again. In fact, they won't even say whether he'll be paralyzed in parts of his body, and there is still that ever-present possibility that he won't survive the injuries.

According to the public information

office of the Charlotte Memorial Hospital, the pressure of the accident caused Magnum's fifth cervical vertebrae to explode, sending bone fragments into his spinal cord. Physical therapists are currently working with T.A., hoping to restore feeling and movement to his body.

Right now, nobody knows what will happen.

In a perfect world, that's the only concern. But this is the real world, a world in which life and business go on despite the hardships suffered by other people. Magnum T.A. is in the hospital, but wrestling hasn't stopped—it's

just mused a beat. Fans grieve, but the arenas remain open. There are matches to be won, championships to be fought for, and feuds to be settled. In other words, the NWA is still in business. But what happens now? In the real world of business, Magnum T.A. is not only a man, but a line on an accounts ledger. In the case of the NWA, he's a very important line, one of the most vital cogs in this federation's machinery. He means ticket sales, television ratings points, and he only adds to the quality of wrestling in the World Championship area. Without him, the

(Continued on page 62)

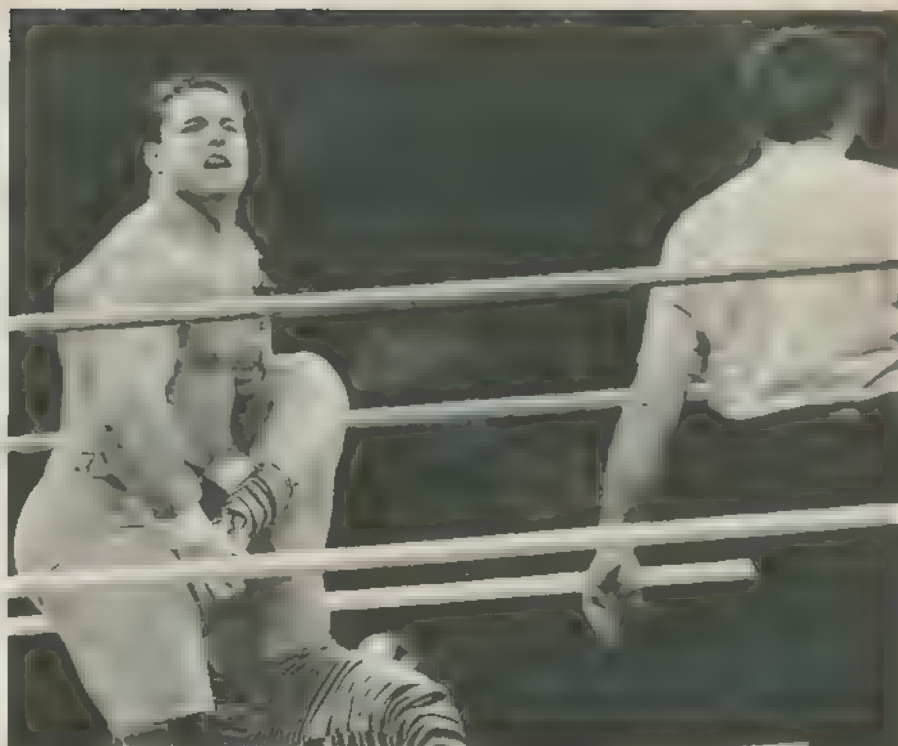
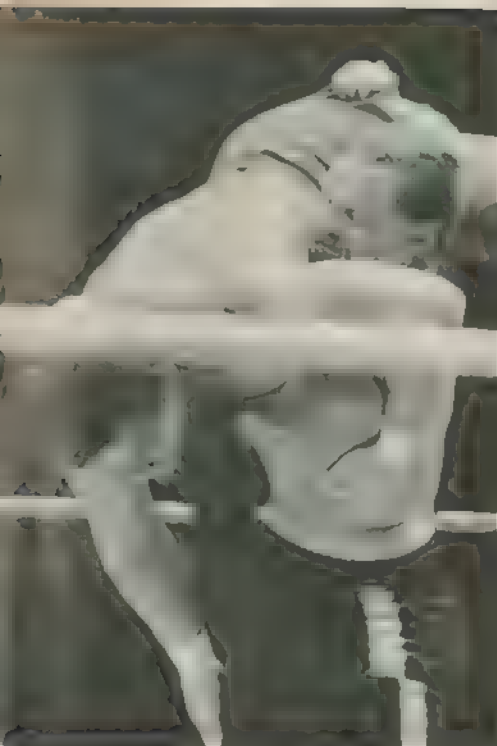
THE BRITISH BULLDOGS: LIVING ON THE EDGE OF DISASTER

"Every dog must have his day," according to Jonathan Swift. And if The British Bulldogs aren't prepared to alter their approach to the WWF tag team championship, it might be one of their worthy challengers who have their day

I AGREE THAT dogs possess something very like a conscience.
—Charles Darwin

Could Darwin have been referring to The British Bulldogs? Darwin came along well before the ascent of Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid and the descent of Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine, but after all, the personality of the dog hasn't changed over the years. They are among the most loyal of animals: true to the core and faithful to the very end.

The name fits. There's certainly a bit of dog in The British Bulldogs, probably the most honest tag team in wrestling, two men who wrestle by the book and rely on scientific skills to defeat their opponents.



Jim Neidhart, one-half of The Hart Foundation, slams Dynamite Kid (above left). Davey Boy Smith armbars Brutus Beefcake (above right). Smith readies Neidhart for a suplex (left). The Bulldogs are famous for acrobatic moves, but that style puts them at a disadvantage against more powerful opponents.

Even the addition of manager Lou Albano, once one of the most hated men in wrestling, wasn't enough to change their style. Instead, Albano helped instill the killer instinct, that one missing ingredient that the Bulldogs needed to win the WWF tag team belts. Still, the Bulldogs have stuck to what got them there in the first place: honesty, hard work, and scientific wrestling in its purest sense.

But there's only one problem . . .

A living dog is better than a dead lion.

—Ecclesiastes

One would hardly expect a strict scientific wrestler to take chances. The scientific style is built around the laws of probability, calculatingly wearing down an opponent through a series of well-planned and executed maneuvers. To lose control is to lose the match.

(Continued on page 64)

THE FOUR HORSE



MEN PLUS ONE

Arn Anderson

Ric Flair



Special Section:

RATING THE ★ TOP 50 ★ STARS IN THE WWF!

The WWF roster is bulging with talented wrestlers, and this special section ranks the federation's top 50

stars. How do they rate when compared with one another? Where do your favorites stand on such a list? You'll find the answers to these questions—and more—right here!

FOR A WHILE, it was a normal editorial meeting. A short while. Then the editors began to discuss what material to put in this issue's "Ratings Analysis." Associate Editor Craig Peters favored using more of the fans' letters containing odd and unusual ratings categories. Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum agreed, but Senior Editor Bill Apter wanted to present ratings for the Pacific Northwest and Polynesian Pacific areas.

Then Managing Editor Stu Saks spoke up.

"You know what we haven't had in a long time?" Saks asked rhetorically. "Top 20 ratings. We've printed 11 through 20 tag team and singles ratings in 'Ratings Analysis' in the past, and I think that it would be a good idea this month."

"You know," Peters added, "with all the talent in the WWF, we could probably do a Top 50 ratings!"

Saks' eyes sparkled. "Great idea!"

Everyone else groaned.

"No, really," Saks enthused. "We'll put together a Top 50 ratings for the WWF, and use it instead of a photo section in the magazine."

Everyone groaned again, mainly at the prospect of spending the hours upon hours necessary to put together such a list and write the blurbs of analysis that must accompany each name.

And it did take hours. Many hours. But when those hours were over, a consensus had been reached on the 50 best grapplers in the WWF, and capsule analyses of their styles had been written.

What is the difference between these ratings

and the WWF Top 10 on our ratings pages? And what were the criteria for these ratings?

"We concerned ourselves with a few major factors," noted Editor-in-Chief Peter King. "Wrestling skills, won-lost record, ability to overwhelm an opponent, they all counted for something. Indeed, in a way, strength and power counted as much as pure wrestling skill, and in some cases maybe even more. And won-lost record was important as well."

"For example, Hulk Hogan, not a particularly skilled wrestler but an extremely powerful and intimidating one, was rated number one—how could you rate him anything but number one in the WWF?—but Les Thornton, a superb scientific grappler who seldom wins his matches, finished number 42."

"There was a lot more latitude for editorial interpretation and an individual wrestler's potential in the Top 50 than in the Top 10," King concluded. "The WWF Top 10 is more a list of top contenders to a title, while our Top 50 is a listing based more on style than contention. A good rule of thumb would be that any wrestler could fairly easily beat any wrestler ranked lower than he is, but would have great difficulty beating someone rated higher. I think the fans will enjoy this section a great deal."

In any event, we're sure that these ratings will provide you and your friends with a forum for discussion, argument, and just plain fun. And when you're done examining them, we'd love to hear your reactions and comments.

In the meantime—enjoy!

1

HULK HOGAN

Has held the WWF World heavyweight title since defeating The Iron Sheik on January 23, 1984, in New York's Madison Square Garden ... Incredibly strong and immensely popular ... Though limited in his maneuvers, is very effective with the clothesline, legdrop, and elbowsmash ... Has turned back all challengers to his title ... Has bodyslammed John Studd and King Kong Bundy ... When at a disadvantage, seems to draw extra energy from the cheers of his fans.

2

RANDY SAVAGE

Has held the WWF Intercontinental title since defeating Tito Santana for the belt on February 9, 1986, in Boston ... Superb leg strength and upper-body power ... One of the few WWF stars who can match Hogan for strength ... His axehandle and flying elbowsmash are formidable finishing maneuvers ... Good technical knowledge of the sport, though often prefers to brawl ... If not bogged down by I-C title defenses, could be truly capable of unseating Hogan.

3

PAUL ORNDORFF

Currently viewed as the biggest threat to Hogan's title ... Another incredibly powerful man ... A better technical wrestler than Hogan ... Often loses his composure during a match due to the fans' taunts or falling to a disadvantage ... An excellent weapon in the piledriver ... Toughness in the ring can be traced back to his collegiate and pro football experience.



4

RODDY PIPER

May be one of the very best brawlers in the entire sport ... Aided in the ring by amateur boxing training ... Possesses incredible killer instinct ... Will absorb frightening amounts of punishment before taking a backward step ... Attacks by his opponent only seem to make him angrier and more determined ... Gave Hogan some nervous moments during several WWF World title matches

5

RICK STEAMBOAT

One of the finest scientific wrestlers in the sport ... Possesses a strong martial arts background that he blends effectively with his pure wrestling science ... A magnificent flying bodypress ... Excellent speed and agility ... Seems to be held back slightly by a lack of killer instinct ... Able to devise on-the-spot strategies during a lengthy match ... Superb stamina.

6

DYNAMITE KID

Has held the WWF World tag team title with Davey Boy Smith since defeating Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake on April 7, 1986 ... Perhaps the best snap-suplex in the sport ... Incredible ring speed ... Relatively light in weight when matched against opponents like Valentine or Nikolai Volkoff ... Superlative teamwork ... Peerless agility ... Nagging knee and shoulder injuries have slowed his aerial attack considerably of late

7

JAKE ROBERTS

Has been the center of controversy over the past year because of the large boa constrictor he brings into the ring ... Currently

feuding with Rick Steamboat and shocked a nationwide television audience when he wrapped the snake around Steamboat's prone body ... His DDT is considered one of the most devastating finishing maneuvers in the sport ... Strong, tall, and lanky, Roberts' build allows him to quickly ensnare his opponents in a wide variety of holds.

8

DAVEY BOY SMITH

One half of the WWF World tag team champions The British Bulldogs ... An outstanding technical wrestler, Smith can combine power with his acrobatic skills ... Once feuded with his tag team partner Dynamite Kid ... Considered too small by many, but thus far size has not hindered him ... Extremely dangerous from the top rope, his aerial moves are superb ... Many experts feel he could become one of the all-time greats in history.

9

MAGNIFICENT MURACO

One of the most powerful men in wrestling and can win matches on strength alone ... A two-time WWF Intercontinental champion ... Very agile despite his size, he knows his way around the ring ... One of the most vicious rulebreakers in the sport ... Rough, tough, and willing to mix it up, Muraco rarely backs down ... Has let his physique slide over the past years and could lose a few pounds ... Bad attitude.

10

BUTCH REED

A newcomer to the WWF ... Was wrestling in the Central States area but made a deal with former manager Slick and has made



an immediate impact since his arrival Works out daily to maintain his outstanding physique ... One of the strongest men in wrestling ... Former North American champion ... A former college football star and amateur wrestler ... Bounces back and forth between being a rulebreaker and fan favorite ... Extremely arrogant.

11

TITO SANTANA

A two-time former WWF Intercontinental champion ... Lost the title to current champ Randy Savage on February 9, 1986, when "The Macho Man" hit him squarely in the face with a foreign object ... Played pro football for three years ... Won the WWF tag team title with Ivan Putski in 1979 Possesses blinding quickness and speed and can end a match in an instant Continues to expand his scientific repertoire ... Still hasn't recovered completely from knee injury suffered in 1984

12

GREG VALENTINI

Won the WWF World tag team title with partner Brutus Beefcake on August 24, 1985, before losing the title to The British Bulldogs at WrestleMania 2 ... Former WWF Intercontinental champion and NWA U.S. champion ... A hard-nosed, hard-working wrestler ... As good a technical wrestler as he is a brawler ... Uses his vast experience to outsmart his opponent ... Figure-four leglock is one of the sport's most effective finishing moves ... "The Hammer" is a three-time "Most Hated Wrestler of the Year."

13

ANDRE THE GIANT

A legend of the sport ... The 7'5", 497-pound superstar is one of the most popular wrestlers in the United States ... Hated by fans in Japan where he is managed by Wakamatsu ... Now wrestling as The Giant Machine ... Has never been pinned yet has never held a major title ... Size severely limits his ring mobility ... Can overpower any man in the sport ... Lacks scientific skills but is extremely imposing and intimidating ... Has put on considerable weight in the past five years.

14

HARLEY RACE

A record seven-time former NWA World champion ... Now the self-proclaimed "King of the Ring," mainly due to wins in a



Foxboro, Massachusetts, tournament of the same name, and The Sam Muchnick Tournament in St. Louis ... 26 years of experience have made "Handsome Harley" an outstanding ring tactician ... Commands tremendous respect from his rulebreaking peers ... Getting older, slower, and heavier, but has managed to remain competitive

15

RICK MARTEL

A former AWA World champion and two-time WWF World tag team champion with Tony Garea ... Vast array of finishing ma-



neuvres ... The flying vault, flying bodypress, and flying headscissors are among his many aerial moves ... In superb physical condition and dedicated to training ... Young but experienced ... Follows the straight and narrow, even when roughing it up might be necessary ... Recently returned to the WWF after wrestling in Canada

16

DICK SLATER

Best known for his twin finishing moves, the piledriver and the brainbuster ... Has also favored a three-move finishing sequence of the elbowsmash/kneedrop, spinning toe-hold, and figure-four leglock ... Has the capabilities, but needs the opportunities in the WWF against top opponents ... A fierce, rugged wrestler who is at his best when riled up ... Has wrestled in numerous regions throughout the United States and Japan ... Has held numerous titles across the country ... Kneedrop has caused significant damage to his knees.

17

JUNKYARD DOG

One of the most popular wrestlers in the WWF and gears his style toward the fans Former North American champion ... Played football for the Green Bay Packers ... Uses the "big thump" powerslam as his finishing maneuver; opponents seldom get up from it ... A big man, but has recently put on something of a belly ... Very rugged and able to wear down an opponent ... Teams with George "The Animal" Steele on occasion and wrestles top competition in singles matches.

18

JOHN STUDO

At 6'10" and 364 pounds, is one of the largest men in wrestling ... Nearly impossible to overpower and best known for his bodyslam challenges ... Still, he has been slammed numerous times, most recently by Hulk Machine (Hulk Hogan) ... Awesome individual who has had numerous title chances ... Fell short in a series of matches against Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant ... Lack of true killer instinct may be responsible for his inability to defeat Hogan Might be past his prime.

19

ADRIAN ADONIS

Has moved into the WWF spotlight since coming out of the closet in early 1986 ... Feuded with Roddy Piper over "The Flower

Shop" and "Piper's Pit," but has mysteriously dropped out of sight ... Held the AWA World tag title with Jesse Ventura in 1981, and the WWF tag title in 1984-85 with Dick Murdoch ... Appearance is deceiving; Adonis is a tough wrestler and surprisingly agile. Smart and experienced ... Has had weight problems and should drop 60-70 pounds ... Lacks stamina ... An egomaniac.

20

IRON SHEIK

Was responsible for ending one era and ushering in another ... Stopped Bob Backlund's WWF title reign after nearly six years on December 26, 1983, and lost the belt to Hogan almost one month later ... Wrestled in the 1968 Olympics, representing his native Iran ... One of the strongest men in wrestling ... Has incredible upper body strength and amazingly powerful arms. Became the most hated man in wrestling as a result of the Iranian hostage crisis ... An outstanding pure wrestler.

21

KING KONG BUNDY

Certainly one of the most unusual looking men in wrestling with his roundish build and bald head ... Despite his size (6'2", 446 pounds), is very fast and hard to take from behind ... Because of his size, extremely difficult to pin or take off his feet ... Relies on his size, prefers brawling and lacks basic ring skills ... Can be outlasted by a smaller scientific wrestler ... Wrestles each bout in virtually the same way ... Met Hulk Hogan on the Los Angeles-based main event at WrestleMania 2.

22

BILLY JACK HAYNES

Came to the WWF from Portland, Oregon, where he was Pacific Northwest champion ... Part of the new breed of wrestlers. Haynes is a fine physical specimen. Uses his unusual strength to turn the full-nelson into an effective finishing maneuver ... Major flaw is that he doesn't stay in one area long enough to become established ... A former champion bodybuilder ... Voted 1984's "Most Improved Wrestler" by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

23

BRETT HART

Comes from the famous Hart wrestling family in Canada ... Tag team partner of Jim Neidhart, forming The Hart Foundation ... One of the most underrated men in the sport ... An superb technical wrestler ... Good aerial maneuvers ... A weakness is his arrogance, which causes him to under-



rate opponents ... Has held every Canadian singles title and many tag team belts ... Son of Stu Hart, former wrestler and now a promoter

24

MIKE ROTUNDO

One half of The U.S. Express with Dan Spivey ... Also formed The U.S. Express with Barry Windham and held the WWF World tag team title twice ... Played college football and wrestled at Syracuse University

A fine scientific wrestler ... Takes full advantage of his outstanding athletic abilities in the ring ... Despite his skill, seems to be going nowhere fast in the WWF ... Comparatively small size has worked against him



25

NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

Teams with The Iron Sheik to form one of the most hated tag teams in all of wrestling ... Defeated Mike Rotundo and Dan Spivey for the WWF tag team belts at WrestleMania before losing the title three months later ... An imposing figure at 6'7", 345-pounds

Tremendously powerful; reportedly can bench press 545-pounds ... Easily outsmarted in the ring and gets by mostly on size ... Managed by Fred Blassie in his first WWF stint in the early '70s.

26

RAYMOND ROUGEAU

Thought by many to be the best tag team partner in all of wrestling ... Easygoing personality makes him an easy partner to get along with, and enables him to place teamwork above ego ... Currently wrestling with his younger brother Jacques ... One of Canada's most famous wrestlers ... Held the Canadian International tag team title and many singles titles ... Superb flying maneuvers, including the dropkick and flying headscissors.

27

TONGA KID

The cousin of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and is molded in much the same manner ... In excellent physical shape, but like his cousin is susceptible to weight gain ... High energy ... Enjoys the cheers of the fans; perhaps too much ... Explodes into the ring and is tough to wear down ... Extremely popular ... Fine aerial maneuvers include a great flying bodypress ... Limited scientific skills, however ... Lack of technicals makes him easily outsmarted by a good scientific wrestler.

28

D. BRIAN BLAIR

One half of The Killer Bees with Jim Brunzell ... Defeated Jesse Barr to win the Florida title in early 1985 ... A fine scientific wrestler ... One of the smaller men in the sport, but can get by on his wrestling skills ... Has an outstanding dropkick among his many other acrobatic skills ... Uses his size as an asset to make him more agile in the ring ... Can be overpowered by some of the WWF's behemoths.

29

JACQUES ROUGEAU

Has gained vast popularity in Canada, especially his native Montreal ... Has been called the Bob Garney of wrestling because of his hard working style ... Might have the

best flying dropkick in the sport ... One of the most exciting wrestlers in the WWF ... Vastly underrated but highly respected by his peers ... With his brother, mainly wrestling against The Hart Foundation, but would like a shot at The British Bulldogs and the WWF tag belts.

30

DINO BRAVO

Perfected the airplane spin and is considered to have the best in wrestling ... Has held the Canadian championship numerous times ... Recently suffered from appendicitis, taking him out of action for some time ... Experience in virtually every region in the U.S. and Canada, and uses this knowledge well ... Wrestles better against a scientific grappler than a pure brawler ... In fine physical condition ... Has never held a singles world championship ... Often disqualified, despite his scientific style ... Is currently a rulebreaker under manager Johnny Valiant.

31

KOKO B. WARI

Extremely popular with the fans ... Known as "The Birdman" because of his penchant for aerial maneuvers ... Carries a parrot to the ring with him ... Possesses a superb dropkick, though is too light to provide the move with enough authority ... Fine ring speed ... Poor defensive capabilities when he is dropped to the mat ... Vulnerable to a strong scientific attack.

32

HILLBILLY JIM

A young, and relatively inexperienced, grappler ... Trained by Hulk Hogan ... Suffered a leg injury at the hands of Brutus Beefcake and Johnny Valiant ... Still has not fully recovered ... Deceptively strong ... Possesses an extremely positive attitude that has made him popular with the fans ... Technical ring skills, however, are severely limited ... Below-average speed.

33

JIM BRUNZELL

Along with B. Brian Blair, comprises the tag team known as The Killer Bees ... Known as "Jumping" Jim Brunzell because of his excellent dropkick capability ... Though he has a good aerial attack, possesses only average ring speed ... Good scientific abilities, but prefers to stick to basics like leg and arm holds ... Questionable stamina when a match lasts longer than 15 or 20 minutes.



34

KAMALA

Known as "The Ugandan Headhunter" ... Intimidates opponents with his size and fearsome makeup ... Wrestling skills are virtually nil ... "Big Splash" maneuver is his only finishing move, which wins him most of his matches ... Limited mobility in the ring because of his incredible bulk ... Almost impossible to control ... May never become more than a middle-of-the-card wrestler

35

JIM WEIDHART

Managed by Jimmy Hart and, along with Brett Hart, forms The Hart Foundation



More a brawler than a scientific grappler ... Might be at a distinct disadvantage in singles matches where he can't tag off to his partner ... Tends to absorb too much punishment in his matches ... Good speed ... Easily distracted by the taunts of the fans ... Very cocky and self-confident.

36

BOB ORTON

Has seen limited ring action over the past few months, instead serving as a bodyguard for Adrian Adonis ... Shared the NWA World tag title with Don Kernodle for two months in early 1984 ... Strong amateur background with excellent, though now rarely used, scientific abilities ... Superplex is one of the most devastating moves in the sport ... Needs to spend more time wrestling instead of bodyguarding.

37

MERCULES HERNANDEZ

Has one of the standout physiques in the sport ... Can bench press well over 500 pounds ... Dedicated to his weight training, but perhaps he should concentrate more on wrestling itself ... Another WWF wrestler with the ability to outmuscle and overpower an opponent ... Low scientific ability ... Mainly a kicker and puncher ... Tends to waste energy during matches stomping around the ring and screaming at fans.

38

EPL. KIRCHNER

A veteran of the U.S. Army's famed 82nd Airborne division ... Obviously a courageous patriotic man, but just as obviously he's of below-average strength, power, and agility ... Finishing move is the clothesline, but Kirchner really isn't heavy enough to make it effective ... Also does a variation of the Samoan drop ... Lacks experience against a wide range of opponents ... Acts recklessly and makes numerous tactical mistakes.

39

PEDRO MORALES

Held the WWF World heavyweight title from February 8, 1971, to December 1, 1973, and is a two-time Intercontinental champion ... Engaged in an almost futile bid for Savage's Intercontinental title; Morales is not the wrestler he used to be ... One of the most popular performers in WWF history ... Remains competitive in the ring, but his advancing age and increasing weight are catching up to him ... Boston crab remains his most effective move.

40

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

Will best be remembered for ending Bruno Sammartino's second WWF title reign in 1977, and then losing the belt 10 months later to Bob Backlund ... Recently returned to the ring after a year-long absence ... Possesses one of the most incredible physiques in the game ... Has awesome arms and can still overpower an opponent ... Despite his vast experience, still lacks basic scientific skills, but is a dedicated athlete.

41

LANNY POFKO

The brother of Intercontinental champion Randy Savage ... Outstanding acrobatic skills account for his nickname "Leaping Lanny" ... Unlike his brother, lacks the size and strength to make it against most of our Top 50, and can be easily overpowered ... In fine shape, however, and has excellent ring movement ... Recites poetry in the ring, a practice which many hard-nosed fans find offensive and causes opponents to ridicule him.

42

LES THORNTON

An excellent scientific wrestler ... Has long been known as "The Man of 1,000 Holds" ... Is relatively short, however, which puts him at a disadvantage against the sport's tall, muscular, and powerful stars ... A multi-time holder of the NWA junior heavyweight title ... Excellent stamina ... Stocky build ... Good power for his size, but will find himself at a strength disadvantage against most opponents.

43

STEVE REGAL

A former NWA junior heavyweight champion and former AWA World tag team champion (with Jim Garvin) ... Considerable experience, but lacks any sense of personal commitment and drive ... Better in tag team matches than singles competition ... Often distracted during matches by fans ... Good technique, but prefers to ignore the rulebook ... Good ring speed ... Would do best to stick to tag competition.

44

DRUTUS DEEPCAKE

Tag team partner of Greg Valentine ... Held the WWF tag title for eight months before losing to The British Bulldogs at WrestleMania 2 ... Is widely acknowledged as the weaker half of this pairing ... Has mastered the flying kneesmash, a move

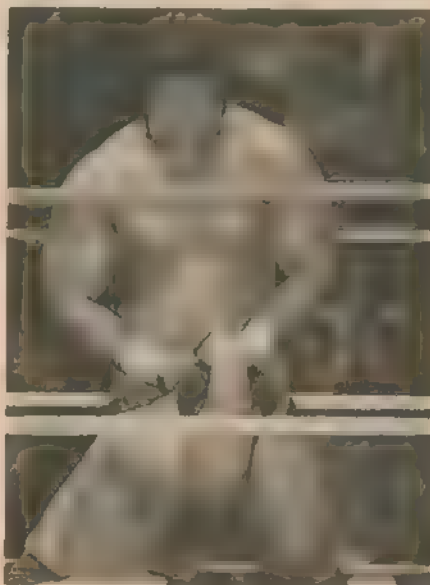


which he executes with stunning accuracy ... Maintains a superb physique ... Too much in love with himself ... Extremely awkward and off-balance.

45

KING TONGA

Well-schooled in the martial arts ... Wrestles often in Japan ... Not an outstanding singles wrestler, may prove to excel more in tag team matches with The Tonga Kid ... Has feuded briefly with John Studd ... Rarely competes against WWF wrestlers in our top 20 ... Sub-par aerial moves ... Decent ring speed, and only average power ... Good agility, however, keeps him out of too much trouble.



46

JIMMY JACK FUNK

Is actually Jesse Barr, although the WWF and the since-departed Funk brothers claim that he is their younger brother ... Idolized in Japan as one of the sport's truly outstanding scientific wrestlers ... Has tremendous drive and is always trying to improve himself ... In fine shape for a wrestler; strong yet mobile ... Offsets his ability with a tendency to get recklessly out of hand ... Sometimes takes too long to execute his strategy.

47

DAN SPIVEY

Spends most of his time in tag matches with Mike Rotundo ... Many observers consider Spivey a grappler in the mold of Barry Windham ... Indeed, was trained by Windham ... Tall and lanky, seems uncomfortable with his size ... Limited skills and only average power ... In singles matches seems lost without a partner to tag out to ... Good execution of basic maneuvers like elbowsmashes and legdrops, but desperately needs to expand his repertoire.

48

GEORGE STEELE

Known as "The Animal" ... Virtually a complete lack of any kind of ring style whatsoever ... Chaotic movements during a match serve to confuse opponents ... Only true finishing maneuver is the hammerlock ... His schoolboy crush on Elizabeth has led to a feud with Randy Savage ... If not for Steele's chaotic ring demeanor, Savage and most other wrestlers in the sport could defeat him in a matter of seconds.

49

SIVA AFI

A former Polynesian Pacific heavyweight champion ... Follows in the footsteps of Jimmy Snuka, but lacks Snuka's fearlessness and high-flying acrobatics ... Slower than average speed ... Needs to cultivate his hunger for winning a title ... Too often accepts matches against opponents who are far more skilled than he ... Trained by legendary Polynesian star Peter Maivia.

50

TED ARCIDI

World record holder in the bench press (705.5 pounds) ... May be too muscular, as his build tends to cut down severely on his mobility and agility ... Severe lack of scientific skills ... Needs to learn many of the basics of the sport so that he does not fall into the trap of relying solely on strength ... One of the 10 strongest men now competing. □

READER RESPONSE

(Continued from page 6)

Let me tell you all about it.

When I got my copy of *Victory Sports Wrestling*, I turned to the puzzle and went out to the drug store to have five copies made, enough for my entire family (I don't like to write in the magazines). My father tried the puzzle first and he did it in 18 minutes. Then came my mother and she did it in 17 minutes! Yea, Mom! Next, it was my younger brother's turn and he did it in 21 minutes, right on the time limit! My older sister isn't too smart and it took her 25 minutes.

So I did it last and guess what? I did the entire puzzle in 14 minutes. I'm only 12 years old and I was wondering if this was some kind of record, since the time limit is 21 minutes. If so, could you please let me know. This is really exciting! I can't wait for your next puzzle.

JOY JACOBS

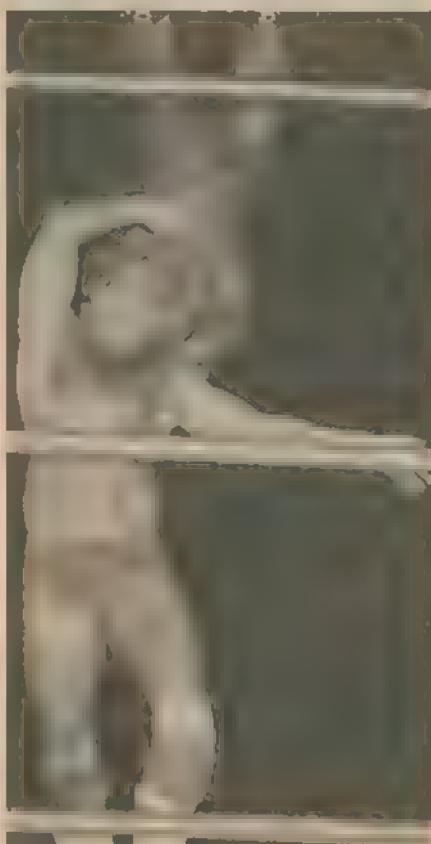
San Francisco

(Editors note: Fourteen minutes is excellent time, but we do not keep records on readers doing our puzzles. However, if there are any other readers out there who did it faster, please let us know!)

THE BRAVE T.A.

"Magnum T.A.—He's Got Millions Of Fans But He's The Loneliest Man In Wrestling" in the Winter 1986 issue really touched a nerve with me now that T.A.'s career is in danger.

It's really too bad that T.A. is such a loner and never got a chance to really know the fans and the other wrestlers. Still, isn't it amazing how so many fans and wrestlers got behind him after the accident and offered support. It just goes to show that the soft-spoken men like Magnum are the real heroes of wrestling.



Magnum T.A. (flipping Ric Flair) has a reputation of being a loner, but Rick Strack notes how thousands of fans have offered their support since Magnum's terrible car accident.

I know that with his dedication and drive T.A. will recover and maybe even some day come back to wrestling. I've been following all the details of his injury very closely and it seems to me like he's doing better than anybody ever thought he would. That's the Magnum T.A. we all know and love!

RICK STRACK

Chicago

FILLING IN THE BLANKS

Thanks for adding a letters page to your fine magazine. It's really the only thing that was missing and now that it's there, you guys have one of the best magazines on the market. It's very important that readers have a chance to respond and comment on the stories in each issue.

Now that I have a chance, I think I'll take advantage of this opportunity to express my opinion about a number of things in wrestling. First of all, I'm a big fan of the UWF and think that the PWI/UWF Tournament was great, especially the outcome! Dr. Death is one of my favorite wrestlers and now maybe he'll get some respect.

A few more things: One Man Gang is a better champion than people give him credit for. He's almost impossible to pin and really knows how to use his weight.



Steve "Dr. Death" Williams won the PWI/UWF \$50,000 Challenge Tournament, an event that Vincent Panzarino really enjoyed.

That's more than I can say about some of the other fat slobs running around in the sport. Also, there's no doubt in my mind that The Freebirds should be banned from wrestling. They're a disgrace and only have one thing in mind: injuring people.

Thanks for your time and thanks for a great magazine.

VINCENT PANZARINO

Amarillo, TX □

WRESTLING ARENAS

PUZZLE

The sport of wrestling at its best takes place in large arenas in front of vast crowds. Each arena or stadium is unique, but the one thing they all have in common is screaming wrestling fans having a good time. Take a trip with **Victory Sports Wrestling** to some of the great arenas in North America. See how many you can find in this puzzle. Names are hidden vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.

Good luck!

Time Limit: 19 Minutes

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(Answers on page 52)

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RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 8)

lete and as a man. As he watched that man being butchered from his broadcaster's position at the Broome County Arena in Binghamton, New York, he left the commentary to Vince McMahon and Jesse Ventura. It took all his willpower to resist the urge to rush to Steamboat's aid. In his heart he wanted to; in his head he knew that his credibility as a color commentator would forever be tarnished by taking such an action.

After the match, Sammartino was sent to the dressing room to give a progress report on Steamboat and found himself eyeball to eyeball with Savage. The Macho Man's boasting so enraged Bruno that he could no longer hold back. He attacked Savage and had to be pulled off of him by several people. Sammartino, an intensely proud man, couldn't stand hearing a great athlete like Steamboat taunted. Millions of fans across the country feel the same way.

Randy Savage and Rick Steamboat are easily among the top wrestlers in the sport. The January 1987 edition of our sister publication *Sports Review Wrestling* ranked the 50 wrestlers in the WWF. Savage was number two and Steamboat number five. So this is much more than a run-of-the-mill brawl in an overcrowded federation. Money, prestige, respect of the fans: all of that is on the line here. Savage's Intercontinental title is secondary.

This is the third time since Steamboat entered the WWF in 1985 that someone has tried to put him out. Magnificent Muraco and his manager, Mr. Fuji, tried several dirty tricks, but failed. Muraco thought he had his fellow Ha-

waiian figured, but he was dead wrong. Jake Roberts also took a crack at prematurely terminating Steamboat's WWF stay. On *Saturday Night's Main Event*, Jake "The Snake" sneaked up on The Dragon and DDT'd him on the arena floor. Over the next several months, however, Steamboat painstakingly exacted his revenge, getting the better of Roberts in venues throughout the country. When it all ended, Steamboat emerged the winner.

For his own good, Savage should take note of that.

For his own good, Steamboat had better be very careful.

In this instance, he has something more significant to worry about than Roberts' snake in a bag. Savage's beautiful manager, Elizabeth, is always at ringside ready to distract an opponent. More than one wrestler believes she is more than a gorgeous woman. She is a shrewd, calculating part of Savage's plan to win matches. Her sweet innocence, it has been said, is more deadly than a snake's venom.

Since he entered the WWF, Steamboat has been a major contender for the Intercontinental title. Though he has been sidetracked in his quest by the time-consuming feuds with Muraco and Roberts, he has persevered. He is well-served in this battle by his martial arts skills. Intense karate training has sharpened him physically and psychologically. Savage is often mystically strange, but he doesn't understand the forces that motivate a man like Rick Steamboat.

Prior to entering the WWF, Steamboat had given serious consideration to retiring. He was tired of the mat wars, and he planned to

devote more time to running his gym in North Carolina. But after weighing the pros and cons, Steamboat decided to continue his wrestling career. Most veteran observers agree that the popular Hawaiian was wrestling better than ever before he was injured by Savage.

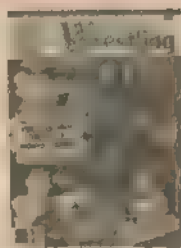
It's no secret that Savage wants the World title more than the Intercontinental belt. This could cause him to falter during his defenses. Perhaps realizing this, he tried to eliminate his number one contender: Steamboat. The more he concentrates on Hulk Hogan, the more he'll want to defend his title against lesser opponents. Like any wrestler, Savage wants to be number one, and he can't if he's busy being number two.

Savage vs. Steamboat matches up two of the most athletically gifted wrestlers in the sport. Physically, Savage might hold a slight edge. While Steamboat has an outstanding physique, Savage has a strength advantage. While Steamboat is known for his quick reflexes, Savage is faster. While Steamboat's flying bodypress is impressive, Savage's flying elbow-smash and his flying axehandle are more devastating.

Nevertheless, Steamboat has a big advantage when it comes to fan support. No matter what any rule-breaker may say, the fans can make a difference in a contest as evenly matched as this one. Over the years, Steamboat has drawn sustenance from his legions of cheering followers. Savage—especially with the way he treats Elizabeth—is hated by most of the fans. Some may cheer his flashy ring robes or his aerial maneuvers, but they don't root for him to win.

Steamboat vs. Savage: Every wrestling fan has an opinion on who will come out on top. Just how much fire can The Dragon breathe? Just how macho is the Macho Man? Will Elizabeth figure in the outcome? We will soon find out. □

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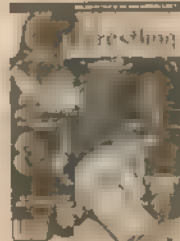
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LADY MAXINE

(Continued from page 12)

sial manager lured his sister to Florida for the expressed purpose of eliminating Lady Maxine from wrestling. The Lee-Maxine feud continued for months, and even today the two are bitter and vindictive toward each other.

"I humiliated Pringle in mixed matches, and then he brought his fat ugly sister in," says Maxine. "Well, that was just fine with me—at least she's been around the ring a few times. When I trounced her, then pudgy boy turned yellow and left the state. He won't be the last, if any other man messes with me. Not by a long shot."

But the challenge of a wily veteran like Peggy Lee Pringle may have been child's play compared to what lurks in store. Normally sources tell us that the notorious Satanist Kevin Sullivan is secretly "training" a female wrestler to destroy Lady Maxine. She is an experienced, accomplished wrestler, these sources report, and is allegedly being fed a diet of nothing but raw red beef and mashed beet nits in preparation for her murderous task. We cannot officially confirm this story without thorough investigation as of press time, but our sources have avowed its accuracy under pain of Sullivan's wrath.

When she heard about this new threat, Lady Maxine just laughed. "I don't care whether it's true or not. I have nothing to worry about. No she-devil's gonna frighten me, because I've been fighting all my life. I'm the toughest woman in wrestling, and *nobody* can put my shoulders to the canvas for a three-count. That's all that matters to me—that, and giving women a fair shake in this business!" □

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SCOTT HALL

(Continued from page 18)

against a wide variety of opponents. Scott's a smart young man, and he'll pick up those skills quickly. I look for him to develop into world championship-caliber material in a very, very short time."

Before that idea can even be entertained, however, Hall will have to continue to develop his skills in the AWA. Though only a pro for a little while, Hall has already earned some impressive victories. He won a \$100,000 battle royal on Thanksgiving Day, 1985, in St. Paul, which was preceded three weeks earlier by another battle royal victory in a 21-man contest in Milwaukee. He has wrestled tag team and singles matches against virtually everyone in the AWA. And along the way, he has succeeded in capturing more than an impressive won-loss record—he has captured the imagination of the AWA fans. And now the rest of the wrestling world is sitting up to take notice.

Right now, Scott Hall's future looks very bright indeed. He is just beginning to ride a wave of popularity that will undoubtedly grow greater. His skills, both mental and physical, are improving with every match. And each week brings hundreds of new fans into the fold.

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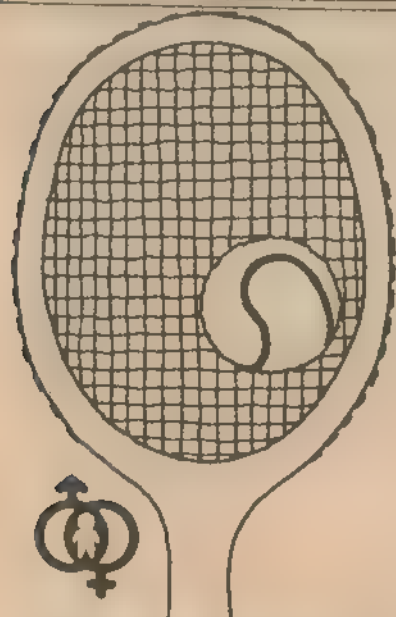
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BRIAN ADIAS

(Continued from page 21)

you forget it. The new Brian Adias doesn't listen to nobody or nothing. If there's gonna be any questions asked here, I'm gonna do the asking!

Q: To tell you the truth, Brian, I'm not sure how interested the fans would be in Brian Adias interviewing Dave Rosenbaum.

A: Just like a smart aleck writer. You know exactly what I mean. I'm asking the questions and I'm giving the answers. Now, are you ready?

Q: Whatever you say, although you know, Brian, this tough guy act just doesn't go over very well. Who do you think you're kidding?

A: I don't know what you're talking

about. I mean what I said. I've broken my ties with the Von Erichs and I'm only out for my own good.

Q: That's not exactly what I mean. It's very apparent how you feel about the Von Erichs now, and I don't deny your selfishness, but this whole thing about I make the rules and I ask the questions just doesn't wash. If you ask me, you probably did the right thing by breaking away from the Von Erichs since your career was going absolutely nowhere, but I think you'd serve yourself better if you didn't change the way you acted

(Continued on page 54)

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BRIAN ADIAS

(Continued from page 52)

along with it.

A: That's your opinion, Rosenbaum, but what you see here is a new man, totally made over. Before, I was a Von Erich clone. I grew up with that family. I'd been with them for so long, it's almost as if I became a part of the Von Erichs, but there was one problem. Because I am an Adias, not a Von Erich, I was always on the outside looking in. Just like [Steve] Simpson, although he doesn't have the guts to do something about it.

Q: He's been burned a few times because of the Von Erichs, hasn't he?

A: You'd better believe it, but he just doesn't stop and realize what's going on. He thinks that the Von Erichs are his ticket to stardom when, in reality, they're his ticket to mediocrity. Put it this way. The Von Erichs are a very close family and they take care of themselves first. Then, if there's anything left over, it goes to me or Simpson. They say that blood is thicker than water and I'm beginning to believe it's true.

Q: But you and the Von Erichs were very good friends.

A: Listen, I've said this before and I'll say it one more time: I want title matches, not friendship. Being a friend of the Von Erichs gets you nowhere. They expect me to sit back and take it, but I'm not taking this crap any longer. It's time to care about Brian Adias, not the Von Erichs.

Q: So you don't care about Kerry Von Erich anymore? You and Kerry were very close, best friends, and it's hard to believe that it's all over.

A: Well, you saw what I did to Mike. I really can't expect Kerry to be friends with a man who beat the living crap out of his brother, can I? And you really can't expect me

to care, either. Look at all that's happened since I made the break. I'm getting title matches against Kevin. When I step into the ring, people don't say, "Hey, that's the Von Erich's friend." They say, "Hey, that's Brian Adias." That's all I want. That's all I ask for. Recognize me for who I am, not who I'm friends with.

Q: You live in Denton, which, of course, is the home of the Von Erichs. How have the people in your town reacted to the switch?

A: Some people are supportive and others hate me for it, but as I said, I just don't care anymore what people think about me. The people who are supportive are the people who have always wanted me to be successful. The people who oppose it are the ones who are always willing to go along with the crowd, the people who will accept mediocrity. In fact, they thrive on mediocrity. It takes guts to do what I did.

Q: Some might say that it takes insensitivity.

A: Insensitivity you're giving me? What the heck is that? This is wrestling, not the ballet. We're dealing with real men, real situations, real dollars and cents. This is life. When you get into that ring, you need mental toughness and desire, not sensitivity. Look at that guy in the WWF, I think it's Lanny Poffo. The man gets into the ring and recites poetry. Poetry, for heaven's sakes! Now look at this brother, Randy Savage. The man is a champion, he has a beautiful woman, he's making tons of money. Nobody would call him sensitive, but look at where he is today. Who would you rather be, Randy Savage or Lanny Poffo?

Q: I never really thought about it that way.

A: Well, one day you will. You'll sit

down and say, should I be sensitive and not get what I want, or tough and aggressive and get what I want? Sensitivity is like putting out a welcome mat that says, "Step on me!" It took me a long time to realize that, and now I feel like I've broken loose. It's an unbelievable feeling.

Q: But you don't have many friends. That's not a very good feeling, is it?

A: But I have my self-respect. That's a great feeling, the best I've ever had.

Q: It's funny, and maybe I'm wrong, but you don't look like a very happy man. All this reasoning and defending your actions. You wouldn't be doing it if you didn't think that you had made a mistake.

A: That's your opinion and I think it rots.

Q: Well, I think you're being overdefensive.

A: Next question.

Q: I'm not sure I have one. How about a message to the Von Erichs?

A: I'm sending my messages in the ring, and I think they got it. Thanks for the help, guys, but no thanks. When you get right down to it, the Von Erichs are only out for themselves. They talk about how generous they are and how much they love the fans, but it all comes down to personal glory. You Von Erichs, you've had all of Texas fooled for all these years, but now the facts are coming out. Things are not as glorious as they may seem.

Q: And how about the fans?

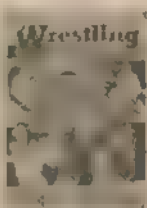
A: The fans love the Von Erichs and that's guilt by association. They've done nothing wrong to me, other than lead me on the wrong path for years. If they wanna boo, let them boo. If they wanna cheer, let them cheer. It doesn't make any difference to me. All that matters now is the bottom line. Winning. Championships. Glory. Money. The Von Erichs are worthless. ☐

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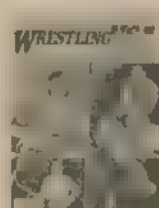
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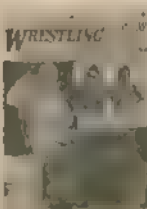
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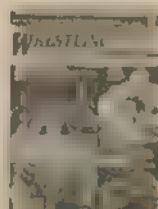
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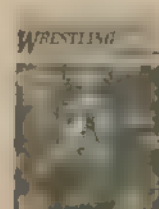
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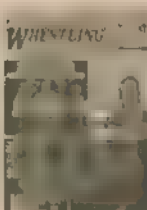
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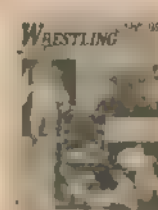
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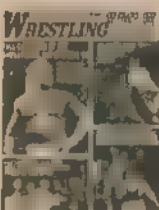
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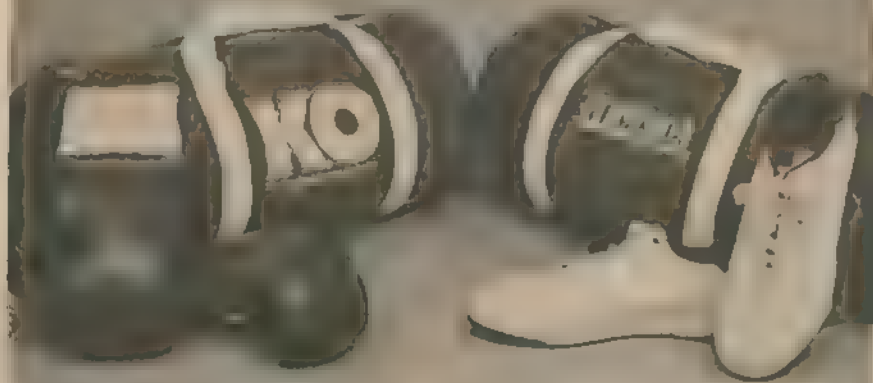
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WRESTLER'S WIFE

(Continued from page 23)

talities of his profession or a nervous wreck by now. She has only been married to the man for four years. At the time she was introduced to him by mutual friend, NWA promoter Elliott Murnick, she was only a casual fan. It didn't take long before her number two devotion, next to Wahoo, was professional wrestling. "I know more about wrestling than Wahoo does," she said, smiling. "When he's on the road, I spend a lot of time watching TV wrestling, looking at tapes on the VCR, and reading wrestling magazines. Let's face it, wrestling fans know more about wrestling than wrestlers. It really annoys him when he comes home and I start showing off how much I know."

What annoys Karen is her husband's reluctance to take her to his matches. "He thinks I just want to go because he's my husband. He thinks he's doing me a favor by keeping me home," she laments. "But it's better that I see what is happening firsthand. That way I don't have to worry all night."

No matter what time Wahoo is scheduled to come home, Karen will stay up to greet him when he walks through the door. Although she is a gourmet cook who will spend hours preparing elaborate meals for her husband when he isn't wrestling, Wahoo rarely eats after a match. "He's usually too tired and banged up to think about food," she said. "More than my cooking ability, though, I think Wahoo likes the fact that I am a registered nurse."

Every wrestler should be so lucky. Wahoo says that being married to a nurse will probably add five years to his career. "I don't think the average fan really

understands what these men go through," Karen says. "They see the matches in their city once or twice a month and don't realize that these men wrestle four or five times a week around the country. The wrestlers never have time to let their injuries heal. So if Wahoo pulls a muscle in his leg one night, chances are the injury is going to be aggravated the next night. It becomes a vicious cycle. Every night they aggravate old injuries while at the same time adding new injuries. Professionally speaking, these men should only be in the ring once every week or two.

"But try to tell that to a wrestler!"

Since Karen knows she cannot convince her husband to reduce his wrestling schedule, she does her best to educate him on the proper ways to prepare physically

for a match. "The majority of veterans warm up for a match the same way they did when they were rookies. They don't know how important it is to stretch out your muscles before a match, especially as you get a little bit older. If these guys were more educated about their bodies, they could probably cut their injuries in half."

Although often tempted to do otherwise, Karen limits the advice she gives Wahoo to her area of expertise. She will never make suggestions on what he should do in the ring. "I might know more about who's feuding with whom in Chicago or Portland," she says, "but when it comes to how to counter a figure-four leglock, no way! Wahoo wouldn't have been on top of the sport for so long if he took advice from a 120-pound woman!" □

HILLBILLY JIM

(Continued from page 25)

Morales vs. Rene Goulet; forget about King Tonga vs. Barry O; forget about Adrian Adonis vs. Gatorwolf. Those matches are simply filler, calculated to pad out the card out to three hours or more. They're just time-wasters, meant to allow late-coming fans to reach their seats; fit more for one of the weekly WWF telecasts than the undercard to ... to ...

Well, to the epilogue of what was billed as "The Colossal Jostle."

But this tag team match was much more than that, for "The Colossal Jostle" was a battle between Andre and Bundy, a battle of superheavyweights that had WWF fans shaking in awe nearly as much as the ring itself shook in anticipation of total collapse.

No, this tag team match was much more than Andre vs.

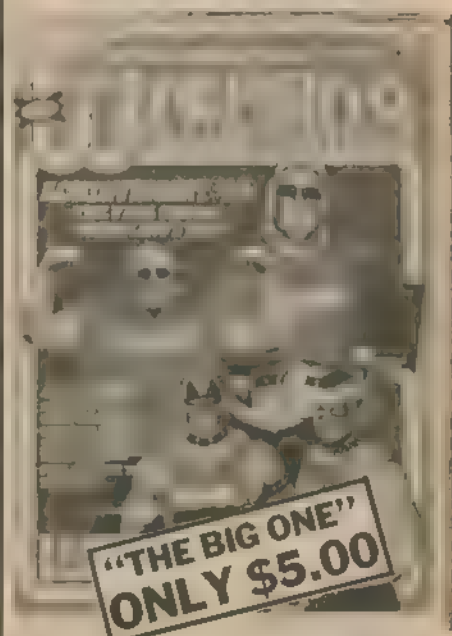
Bundy. This match also carried with it overtones of the hatred between Andre and Studd. Who could possibly forget the humiliation that Andre suffered when his hair was cut by Studd? And yes, Andre came back to pay Studd in kind, to cut some of his hair in arenas across the country—a small lock here, a slight clip there. But nothing serious. Nothing that would satiate the hunger for revenge that still burned in Andre's billboard-sized chest.

So this superheavyweight tag team match had this at stake: Hatred between Andre and Bundy, and hatred between Andre and Studd.

But there was yet a third element in this match, a factor that was itself the very reason so many fans flocked to see the

(Continued on page 58)

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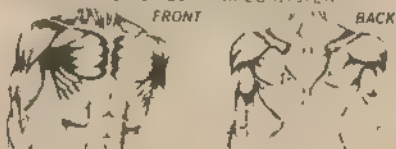
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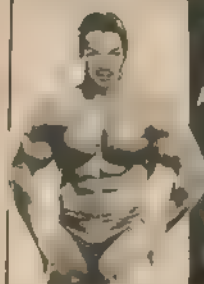
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HILLBILLY JIM

(Continued from page 57)

contest:

Hillbilly Jim.

It had been a long time since Hillbilly Jim had stepped through the ropes. Early in 1985, Jim suffered a leg injury at the hands of Brutus Beefcake and Johnny Valiant, and spent much of the year in a cast. Hillbilly's congenial personality allowed him to pass the days playing guitar and thinking about a comeback, but at night those thoughts undoubtedly turned to the reasons he was out of wrestling in the first place.

For months, the hatred must have festered, grown, become more bitter and acidic with each passing day.

But now Hillbilly Jim was back in the ring, and this tag team match was going to be more than Jim helping Andre battle Studd and Bundy—it was going to be a test of strength, a test of personal strength for Hillbilly Jim, and a test of physical strength for the leg that hadn't bounced against the ring ropes for more than half a year.

In a sense, Hillbilly failed the test. Andre knew that Jim couldn't press himself too greatly, so the Giant carried the weight of this match on his ample shoulders. In fact, Andre was in the ring for at least 75 percent of its duration. In many ways, this match was a handicap affair: Bundy and Studd against Andre... and Andre's hatred.

Then again, which team had the true handicap?

Andre was remarkable. Again, as he has so often done in the past, he put to rest the lie that Big John Studd had never been slammed; this night, Studd was slammed twice. And when Bobby Heenan tried to interfere from ringside, Andre was right there,

(Continued on page 60)

HILLBILLY JIM

(Continued from page 58)

ready and waiting, and took care of Heenan as handily as he took care of Studd and Bundy.

But the Hillbilly. Yes, the Hillbilly.

True, Jim didn't wrestle up to his full physical capabilities, which leads one to wonder whether his leg will ever be 100 percent healed. But when the opportunity presented itself—ahh, yes . . . the Hillbilly.

Andre maneuvered Studd toward his corner. The referee was busy preventing Bundy from entering the ring and double-teaming the Giant. And that allowed Hillbilly to make his move.

Jim moved away from the corner and grabbed hold of Studd's arms while Andre peppered Studd's back with thundering forearm blows. Studd was stunned, rendered groggy by the hefty meathooks that seemed to want to pound into his very shoulders and out through his chest.

And then Jim and Andre made their move: Andre produced a pair of scissors that he used to cut several hefty locks of hair away from Studd's head. The fans went wild. Andre was finally—*finally*, with the help of Hillbilly Jim—getting even. And it was glorious.

Bundy shoved the referee aside and ran toward the corner. A four-man melee ensued, and the referee called for the bell and a double-disqualification ruling.

But the glory! The hair-cutting! The revenge! Sensational, thanks to Hillbilly Jim.

And now that Andre's vendetta has been taken care of, Jim begins to set his sights on Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake.

We can only *imagine* the suffering that Valiant and Beefcake will have to endure should Andre return Jim's favor! □



MORE AWARDS

(Continued from page 31)

Year—Magnum T.A.; Match of the Year—Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair (Rhodes wins NWA World title, August 9, Greensboro, North Carolina); Feud of the Year—Magnum T.A. vs. Nikita Koloff.

WORLD CLASS WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Wrestler of the Year—Kevin Von Erich; Tag Team of the Year—Kerry & Kevin Von Erich; Manager of the Year—Gary Hart; Rookie of the Year—Dingo Warrior; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Lance Von Erich; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—Kerry Von Erich; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Rick Rude; Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—Mike Von Erich; Match of the Year—Bruiser Brody vs. Abdullah the Butcher (steel cage match, October 13, Cotton Bowl); Feud of the Year—Terry Gordy vs. Bruiser Brody.

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

Wrestler of the Year—Hacksaw Duggan; Tag Team of the Year—The Fantastics; Manager of the Year—Gen. Skandor Akbar; Rookie of the Year—Sting; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Rick Steiner; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—Hacksaw Duggan; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Michael Hayes; Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—Ted DiBiase; Match of the Year—The Fantastics vs. The Sheepherders (barbed wire cage match, June 13, Houston); Feud of the Year—Missy Hyatt vs. Dark Journey.

FLORIDA AREA

Wrestler of the Year—Lex Luger; Tag Team of the Year—The Fabulous Ones; Manager of the Year—

Sir Oliver Humperdink; Rookie of the Year—Lex Luger; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Kendall Windham; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—Barry Windham; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Ron Bass; Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—Stan Lane; Match of the Year—Lex Luger vs. Ric Flair (Battle of the Belts III, September 1, Daytona, Florida); Feud of the Year—Ron Bass vs. Barry Windham.

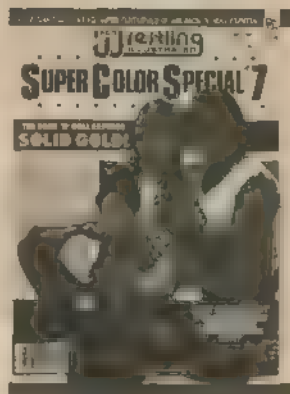
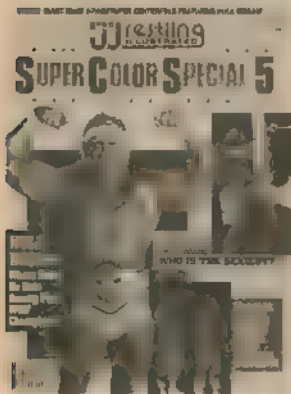
MID-SOUTHERN AREA

Wrestler of the Year—Jerry Lawler; Tag Team of the Year—The Fantastics; Manager of the Year—J.D. Costello; Rookie of the Year—Bam Bam Bigelow; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Jeff Jarrett; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—Jerry Lawler; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Bill Dundee; Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—Paul Diamond; Match of the Year—Bill Dundee vs. Jerry Lawler (loser-leave-town match, July 14, Memphis); Feud of the Year—Jeff Jarrett & Pat Tanaka vs. Aiko Sato & Tarzan Goto.

CONTINENTAL AREA

Wrestler of the Year—Brad Armstrong; Tag Team of the Year—The Nightmares; Manager of the Year—Kevin Sullivan; Rookie of the Year—none; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Wendell Cooley; Most Popular Wrestler of the Year—The Bullet; Most Hated Wrestler of the Year—Robert Fuller; Inspirational Wrestler of the Year—The Bullet; Match of the Year—The Bullet vs. Ric Flair (June 16, Birmingham, Alabama); Feud of the Year—Wendell Cooley vs. Adrian Street. □

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MAGNUM T.A.

(Continued from page 33)

NWA has a big hole to fill.

Actually, this hole can't be filled by anybody but Magnum. His appeal was incredible. When NWA President Bob Geigel reprimanded Magnum T.A. and then stripped him of the U.S. championship on national television, fans throughout the country reacted in anger. A few days later when *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Senior Editor Bill Apter came down hard on Magnum on WTBS' "Pro Wrestling Illustrated Scouting Reports," our offices were flooded with letters from enraged viewers.

If the NWA can find a 245-pound blond adonis with the sex appeal of a movie star and wrestling skills equalled by few men in the entire world, the hole can be filled. Then, and only then, can Magnum T.A. be replaced. Is there another man out there who is so willing to defend the honor of the United States? Is there another wrestler in the world with Magnum's desire, determination, and will to win?

Magnum T.A. has something special. The reasons for his popularity cannot be put into words. The NWA will have to realize that you cannot replace a man like Magnum T.A. His injury is their loss. And, along with the rest of us, the NWA can do nothing but pray for Magnum's life. Right now, a return to the ring might be asking too much.

As this issue went to press in early January, Magnum's condition was greatly improved. He was no longer in critical condition and, according to doctors, his life is no longer in danger. According to Jim Crockett Jr. of Crockett Promotions, T.A. is starting to gain weight back and is moving both arms. The physical therapy is far ahead of schedule.

"They're getting ready to release him from rehabilitation," said Crockett. "Doctors say he'll walk out of the hospital by the end of the month. He can't walk yet, but he'll be able to walk with assistance. They really don't know how he's going to be. The doctors originally said that he'd be paralyzed and now it looks like he's going to walk. But they won't know if there'll be any lasting effects for at least two years."

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BRITISH BULLDOGS

(Continued from page 35)

Usually, it's the brawlers who are reckless and adopt a win at any cost attitude. Roddy Piper, one of the top stars in the WWF, is willing to take five blows just to land one. It's a chance he takes. Hulk Hogan, the WWF champion, takes a beating in nearly every match but expects as much as the price for his roughhouse style.

And then, there's The British Bulldogs, scientific wrestlers who break the mold of caution. In the tag team title bout at WrestleMania 2, Davey Boy Smith whipped Greg Valentine toward his own corner where Dynamite Kid leveled him with a headbutt as he came in full speed. Smith fell on Valentine for the pin and The British Bulldogs won the title. The other consequence was obvious: Smith was just as likely to get knocked out by Valentine and thereby lose the match.

Wrestlers are expected to take chances on the way up: Usually, it's the only way to get to the top. A contender has nothing to lose. A champion is risking his title. Once he gets to the top, a more cautious style is usually adopted. In the case of The British Bulldogs, this isn't true. With nothing to gain, and everything to lose, the Bulldogs are trying to attain that which isn't there.

Fox-terriers are born with about four times as much original sin in them as other dogs.

—Jerome K. Jerome

"These guys might be a little too honest for their own good," said one WWF observer. "There comes a time when you have to fight fire with fire. When a man is coming at you with a gun, you don't try to charge him, you pull a gun. I'm not sure that the Bulldogs are willing to pull that gun and it could get them

in trouble."

He could be right, because if The British Bulldogs come under the category "other dogs," Valentine and Beefcake, Nikolai Volkoff and The Iron Sheik, Jim Neidhart and Brett Hart, fall under the category "fox-terriers."

The fact is, for all of The British Bulldogs' ability, they're either incapable of or unwilling to get down and dirty. Cheating is not a part of their game plan. Injuring their opponents is not the key. This style is rare in professional wrestling and certainly a virtue. But what happens when your opponents know every rulebreaking technique in the book?

The difficulty of defeating The British Bulldogs in a scientific match has become apparent to most every contender to the WWF tag team throne. Volkoff and The Iron Sheik, Hart and Neidhart, Valentine and Beefcake, are well-trained in the seamy side of wrestling and will resort to any tactic. The question is, will the Bulldogs be able to fight off this challenge?

If not, then the WWF tag team Champs are, indeed, living on the edge of disaster.

Oh, the saddest of sights in a world of sin

Is a little lost pup with his tail tucked in

Arthur Guiterman

Or maybe, Mr. Guiterman, the most impressive duo of scientific wrestlers in the country getting outbrawled, outcheated, and outtricked for their title. For now, Davey Boy Smith and the Dynamite Kid seem to have a pretty strong hold on their belts. But it could be only a matter of time. Talented, they are. Versatile, they're not.

Professional wrestling is certainly a world of sin, and in this case, the fans would play the part of the proverbial little lost pup if the Bulldogs lost their belts to a member of the WWF's evil empire. ☐

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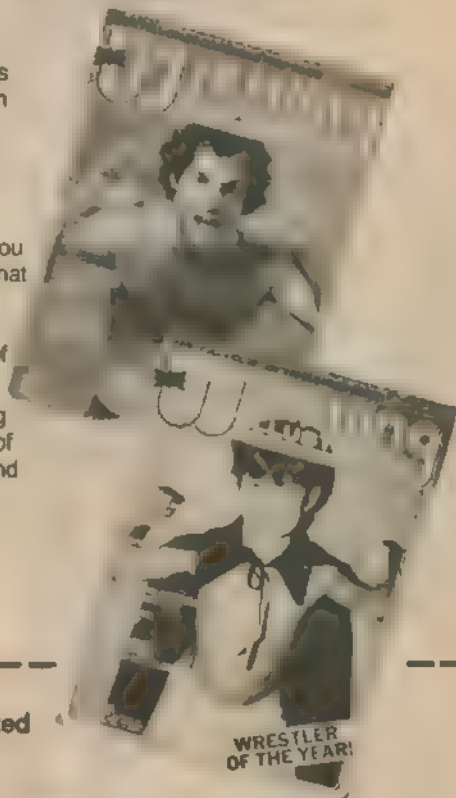
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TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
U.S. heavyweight champion
275, Moscow, Russia
- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
WWF Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**LEX LUGER**
Southern champion
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
AWA World champion
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 7—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
World Class champion
239, Denton, TX
- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
No. 1 contender: WWF title
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—**TERRY GORDY**
No. 1 contender: UWF title
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 10—**DUSTY RHODES**
No. 2 contender: NWA title
302, Austin, TX

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 3—**MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 487 pounds
- 4—**HACKSAW DUGGAN & TERRY TAYLOR**
UWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 505 pounds
- 5—**BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 515 pounds
- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM & RONNIE GARVIN**
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 467 pounds
- 7—**THE FANTASTICS**
No. 2 contenders to UWF tag team title
Combined weight: 462 pounds
- 8—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 9—**RICK MARTEL & TOM ZENK**
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 481 pounds
- 10—**BRIAN ADIAS & AL MADRIL**
World Class tag team champions
Combined weight: 473 pounds

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 5—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 6—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 7—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 8—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 9—**CARLOS COLON**
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 10—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA

AWA

World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL

245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 3—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands
- 4—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**SUPER NINJA**
263, Japan
- 6—**MR. SAITO**
247, Japan
- 7—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—**NINJA GO**
238, Japan
- 9—**EARTHQUAKE FERRIS**
380, San Francisco, CA
- 10—**ALEXIS SMIRNOFF**
269, Russia

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 3—**KAMALA**
402, Uganda
- 4—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 5—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 6—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 7—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
275, Tampa, FL
- 8—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 9—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
313, New York, NY
- 10—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Toluca, Mexico

WOMEN

- 1—**MISTY BLUE SIMMES**
U.S. & IWF Women's champion
118, Glens Falls, NY
- 2—**SHERRI MARTEL**
AWA Women's champion
133, New Orleans, LA
- 3—**WENDI RICHTER**
WWF Women's champion
142, Dallas, TX
- 4—**FABULOUS MOOLAH**
WWF Women's champion
138, Columbia, SC
- 5—**LELANI KAI**
All Pacific Women's champion
127, Honolulu, HI
- 6—**CANDI DIVINE**
No. 1 contender: AWA title
127, Nashville, TN
- 7—**LINDA DALLAS**
No. 1 contender: U.S. & IWF title
109, Dallas, TX
- 8—**PENNY MITCHELL**
No. 1 contender: WWF title
141, Crane, Missouri
- 9—**COMRADE ORCA**
No. 2 contender: U.S. & IWF title
217, Moscow, Russia
- 10—**VELVET MCINTYRE**
No. 2 contender: WWF title
135, Dublin, Ireland

OFFICIAL

WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD CHAMP.

- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 6—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**IVAN KOLOFF**
257, Moscow, Russia
- 9—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—**VLADIMIR PETROV**
281, Moscow, Russia

UWF

- 1—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL
- 2—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 4—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 5—**TERRY TAYLOR**
235, Vero Beach, FL
- 6—**TED DIBLASE**
247, Omaha, NE
- 7—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 8—**SAVANNAH JACK**
246, Savannah, GA
- 9—**STING**
270, parts unknown
- 10—**ANGEL OF DEATH**
277, Los Angeles, CA

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 2—**TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
- 3—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
- 4—**BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
- 5—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 6—**MIKE VON ERICH**
221, Denton, TX
- 7—**DINGO WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 8—**STEVE SIMPSON**
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 9—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 10—**MASTER GEE**
263, Oakland, CA

FLORIDA

- 1—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 2—**RON SIMMONS**
260, Perry, GA
- 3—**KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
297, Africa
- 4—**BAD NEWS ALLEN**
280, New York, NY
- 5—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 6—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 7—**ED GANTNER**
269, Tampa, FL
- 8—**VIC STEAMBOAT**
230, Honolulu, HI
- 9—**DEWEY FORTE**
297, Tampa, FL
- 10—**SEAN ROYAL**
235, Tampa, FL

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BIG BUBBA**
407, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**KABUKI**
261, Singapore
- 4—**TOMMY RICH**
242, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 6—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—**AIKO SATO**
238, Tokyo, Japan
- 8—**BILLY TRAVIS**
232, Lexington, KY
- 9—**TARZAN GOTO**
228, Tokyo
- 10—**PAUL DIAMOND**
235, Thunder Bay, Ontario

CONTINENTAL

- 1—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 2—**RON FULLER**
244, Dyresburg, TN
- 3—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 4—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
- 5—**WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 6—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 7—**LARRY HAMILTON**
235, Jacksonville, TN
- 8—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 9—**RIP ROGERS**
238, Atlanta, GA
- 10—**TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 7—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 8—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 9—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 10—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands

MOST HATED

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 4—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 5—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 6—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 7—**BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 8—**TOMMY RICH**
242, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—**KAMALA**
402, Uganda
- 10—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA

For period ended January 8, 1987

RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The wrestling scene in Japan is one that can be confusing to American wrestling fans. There are several wrestling organizations in Japan, the two largest being All-Japan Pro Wrestling and New-Japan Pro Wrestling. Both organizations welcome American wrestlers into their ranks, and most top American stars have toured Japan at one time or another in their careers. This "Ratings Analysis" takes a look at the Top 10 wrestlers for All-Japan Pro Wrestling. We've listed the *native* grapplers, the men who wrestle there regularly rather than American stars who tour a few weeks out of the year. Notes about the wrestlers follow the ratings.



Hiroshi Wajima & Shohei Baba

ALL-JAPAN

- 1—GENICHIRO TENRYU
237, Katsuyama, Japan
- 2—JUMBO TSURUTA
260, Yamanashi, Japan
- 3—YOSHIAKI YATSU
238, Guma, Japan
- 4—RIKI CHOSHU
233, Seoul, South Korea
- 5—TIGER MASK
188, Saitama, Japan
- 6—KUNIAKI KOBAYASHI
194, Nagano, Japan
- 7—SHOHEI BABA
289, Niigata, Japan
- 8—TAKASHI ISHIKAWA
214, Yamadata, Japan
- 9—HIROSHI WAJIMA
267, Nanaho, Japan
- 10—MIGHTY INOUE
198, Osaka, Japan

All-Japan Pro Wrestling recently held a tag team tournament that saw Jumbo Tsuruta and Genichiro Tenryu defeat the combination of Stan Hansen and Ted DiBiase in the final round on December 12 in Tokyo ... Takashi Ishikawa and Mighty Inoue were the All-Japan Asian tag team champions for a full year, until being defeated on October 30, 1986, by Super Strong Machine and Ashura Hara ... Jumbo Tsuruta (a former AWA World champion) is presently All-Japan International champion ... Riki Choshu and Yoshiaki Yatsu are the All-Japan International tag team champions (It was a match against Choshu and Yatsu that

saw Road Warrior Hawk suffer a broken leg) ... Riki Choshu is the Pacific Wrestling Federation champion, having defeated Stan Hansen for that honor in Yokohama, Japan, on April 5, 1986 ... Kuniaki Kobayashi is the All-Japan junior heavyweight champion ... Genichiro Tenryu defeated Ted DiBiase on April 26, 1986, in a tournament final to become All-Japan United National champion ... Shohei Baba is a three-time former NWA World champion ... Hiroshi Wajima, a former sumo wrestler, is one of the most heralded rookies in years in Japan; he's wrestled in the World Championship area as well ... Tiger Mask, while not the same man who impressed U.S. fans during his tour four years back, displays similarly remarkable aerial skills.

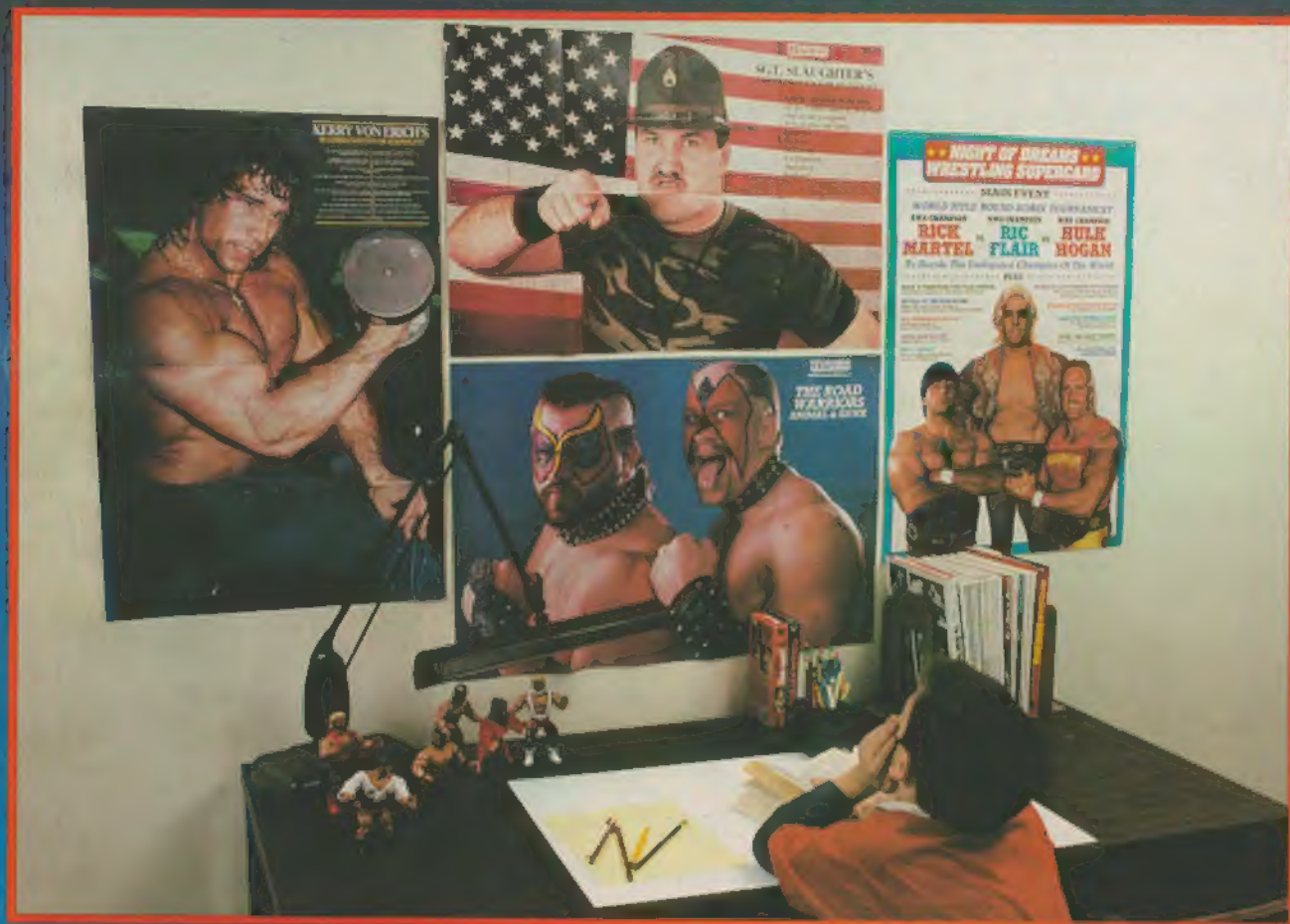
OOPS! Never let it be said that we don't acknowledge our own mistakes. Actually, never let it be said that your thousands of letters don't acknowledge our mistakes! But we'll let Jeff Novell of Pembroke Pines, Florida, speak for the majority of our readers:

You say in your February 1987 issue of *The Wrestler* that Nikita Koloff being in both Most Popular and Most Hated categories was unprecedented and it's never happened before. Well, obviously you didn't check on your old magazines to make sure of that. In the January 1985 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*, Ric Flair was number 10 in both the Most Hated and Most Popular categories, and stated it was a first there, too. I've only read your fine magazines for about 2½ years, so that's the only other time that I know of when a wrestler was in both categories.

Yes, Jeff, you're right. Unfortunately, our memories are sometimes more faulty than those of our readers. And deadline pressures prevented us from checking back through all "Ratings Analysis" columns. But you're right: Flair was the first, and Nikita was the second, to be rated simultaneously in both the Most Popular and Most Hated ratings.

The address for mail: Did you enjoy our Japan ratings? Do you have any ideas for future installments of this column? Send all your comments and criticisms to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o Victory Sports Wrestling; Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

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